

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | January 29, 2021

The 2020–2021 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met virtually at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2021. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents discussed during the meeting are available [online](#).

Attendance: Melynn Bates, Deb Beck (guest), Isaiah Boyd, Jim Brooks, Marcilynn Burke (guest), Robin Clement, Keith Frazee (guest), Lara Grant, Michael Griffel (guest), Patricia Hersh, Saul Hubbard (guest), Stuart Laing, Rocco Luiere (guest), Joanna Mann (guest), Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Juan-Carlos Molleda, Hayley Porter (guest), Doneka Scott, Conrad Sproul, Kathie Stanley, Ray Sykes (guest), Roger Thompson (guest), Edna Ventura, Whitney Warth, Angela Wilhelms (guest), and Janet Woodruff-Borden.

Staff: Debbie Sharp (Office of the VPFA)

Introductions. Co-chair Kevin Marbury, vice president for student life, welcomed TFAB members and the large number of guests to the meeting.

Law school graduate tuition proposal. Marcilynn Burke, dean of the law school and Dave Frohnmayer Chair in Leadership and Law, explained that the tuition of the law school—as currently set—is not covering current expenses. She noted that the law school has been operating with a yearly operating deficit for some time, which is a result of the 2015 precipitous decline in student interest in law school education across the country. She explained that law schools began competing for reduced numbers of students, which the UO School of Law did by offering increased scholarships in the form of tuition discounts. Dean Burke shared that after years of spending down its reserves and running a deficit, the law school has started to work its way back towards being able to cover its own expenses, noting that the plan involves tuition increases to help with financial stability. She noted that instead of the originally projected necessary 5% increase for FY22, the law school is proposing a 4% increase, partly in acknowledgement of the 2020-21 financial difficulties experienced by many students, and partly enabled by sound budget management and improved fall 2020 law school enrollment. Questions included how the proposed tuition increase might affect enrollment, whether the UO law school would still be competitive, and how many years law school tuition is projected to continue to increase. The group also discussed the law school’s current tuition discount rate, whether the tuition discount carries through the student’s entire law school education, and how the law school gained student feedback on proposed tuition increases.

Housing fee proposal. Dr. Roger Thompson, vice president for Student Services and Enrollment Management (SSEM), thanked TFAB for their work and introduced colleagues joining him at the meeting: Michael Griffel, Assistant Vice President (AVP) for SSEM and Director of Housing; Debra Beck, AVP for SSEM and Executive Director of University Health Services; and Keith Frazee, AVP and Chief of Staff in SSEM. Thompson shared some historical context on housing fees, noting that for a number of years, housing rates were frozen, and that for many years, the Carson meal package had been one of the lowest priced among Pac-12 schools. He explained that the [percentage increase in housing rates varies depending on room type and meal plan](#), and

that the overall average increase is about 3.5%. Thompson emphasized the work being done to help residence hall students build community, excel academically, and have more success in progress towards degree completion. He also shared some information on the new residence halls being built to replace older buildings. TFAB members asked questions about the financing for new residence halls, planned upgrades in amenities, prospective enrollment, and plans for fall 2021. Documents showing proposed [2021-2 resident hall room and board rates](#), proposed [2021-2 family housing and university apartment rates](#), and [housing percentage increases](#) are available [online](#).

Health services fee proposal. Regarding the health services fee, Thompson noted the commitment that was made two years ago to freeze the health fee. He explained that the last fee increase was used primarily to improve mental health services, an area which continues to be very important. Thompson shared that the current request is for a 1.29% increase, which is \$3, noting that the increase is the same across student type: the incoming cohort of undergraduate students, continuing undergraduate students, and graduate students. The proposed increase is shown in the [summary of FY22 proposed mandatory fees](#). Discussions involved how the health center is supporting students to deal with increasing mental health challenges, including providing counseling across state lines and support for students in the residence halls. Beck provided an overview of how residence hall students in Covid19-related quarantine and isolation are supported by the care team with check-ins and house calls.

Undergraduate tuition. Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, noted that the Clark Honors College differential tuition rate and the matriculation rate are traditionally increased by the same percentage as the increase to undergraduate resident tuition. She also explained that the Honors College differential tuition rate was dropped significantly a few years ago and noted it is part of the guaranteed tuition program.

Moffitt then reminded the group of the interesting trends underway with [the long-term projections](#), talking through various scenarios and assumptions. She explained that long-term projections are useful to consider, as is the level of risk the institution is feasibly able to take on. The group discussed how enrollment targets are set, where investments have been made in recruitment and scholarships, and the enrollment level assumptions for the new cohort. The group then turned to the undergraduate tuition calculator, with Moffitt talking through different elements in the calculator and how enrollment trends are captured. The group reviewed various scenarios for tuition rate increases, given different assumptions about enrollment and state appropriation levels. These scenarios included differing levels of enrollment for resident, non-resident, and international students, a cut of \$3million to state appropriations, and varying tuition increases for the FY2022 cohort of resident and non-resident undergraduate students.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.