

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | January 24, 2020

The 2019–2020 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Johnson Hall Conference Room on the UO's Eugene campus at 3:00 p.m. on January 24, 2020. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents reviewed during the meeting are available [online](#).

Attendance: Jim Brooks, Robin Clement, Erica Daley, Saul Hubbard, Nyla Jamison (guest), Stuart Laing, Rocco Luiere (guest), Andy Marcus, Kevin Marbury (co-chair), JP Monroe, Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), Ryan Nguyen (*Daily Emerald*), Randy Kamphaus, Lynn Nester (guest), Sabinna Pierre, Vanessa Robles, Hal Sadofsky, Lucy Schiller-Novello (guest), Doneka Scott, Jackson Smith, Kathie Stanley, Sue Wieseke (guest), Angela Wilhelms (guest), Janet Woodruff-Borden, Laurie Woodward (guest)

Staff: Debbie Sharp (Office of the VPFA)

Welcome and introductions. Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration/chief financial officer, welcomed the group and invited all participants to introduce themselves. She then offered an overview of the agenda for the meeting.

EMU fee and Physical Education and Recreation fee (PE and Rec) proposal. Co-chair Kevin Marbury, vice president for student life, informed the group that he would talk about proposals for the Erb Memorial Union (EMU) and Physical Education and Recreation (PE & Rec) together. He presented an [overview chart](#) of the Rec Fee and the Union Fee, including cost drivers and revenue. Marbury noted that the EMU and PE & Rec collect funds through fees to pay the costs of bonds and operations, and that both units also have some non-fee revenue. This includes leases to food vendors, craft center classes, and ticket sales at the EMU, and non-student memberships and space rental at PE & Rec. He explained that over the past few years, revenue from fees has failed to meet projections and the two units are running deficits; this was due to enrollment drops and a change in the way the fees are calculated for off-site and online students. This led to the EMU and PE & Rec collecting less money than required for bond payments and both units using reserves to make up the difference, which is no longer sustainable.

Moffitt explained that the UO used to have a structure where all students paid the same mandatory fees (incidental fee, health center fee, rec center fee, etc.). Over the last few years this structure was changed to charge students who are studying in different locations (e.g., Portland) or solely taking online classes a much lower set of fees than on-campus students since they do not use many of the services funded by the fees. As more and more students have started taking online classes summer term, this reduction in fee charges resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of funds going to auxiliaries like PE & Rec and EMU (and the ASUO).

Marbury explained that PE & Rec is requesting an increase of \$10.75, from \$102.50 in FY20 to \$113.25 in FY21. He further explained that there are two rec-related fees: one for a bond

payment and the other for a bond payment and operations costs. Marbury noted that PE & Rec is requesting these two fees be combined into one to make it simpler for students, their families, and the billing office. Marbury further noted that the EMU is requesting an increase of \$7, from \$70 in FY20 to \$77 in FY21. He explained that the EMU and PE & Rec have been holding fees down for a number of years and using reserves, but that cost drivers and lower-than-projected revenues are forcing this fee increase request. Following the presentation of the proposal, TFAB members discussed whether the fee increases would help restore reserves, reasons for increasing utility charges for PE & Rec, staff salary increases, and the number of students employed by the EMU and PE & Rec. The chart of fee proposals from PE & Rec and the EMU is [available online](#).

Undergraduate tuition. Moffitt presented the TFAB with a revised tuition calculator, noting that the calculator is still being refined and will be shared with the group at the next meeting (January 30th). She walked TFAB members through the various sections of the calculator, which builds in assumptions about state appropriation, implementation of last year's budget cut, and enrollment risk, as well as tuition rates. She noted that blue cells in the calculator are places to input assumptions. Moffitt also shared good news regarding FY21 cost drivers: the central power station has managed to make some changes in the FY2021 power station budget that has resulted in the reduction of projected E&G fund utility charges by \$1 million, bringing the total projected FY2021 E&G fund cost drivers down from \$19 million to \$18 million. Comparing tuition calculators, Moffitt explained that the previous calculator assumed stable enrollment whereas the new version looks at projected enrollment. With this in mind, Moffitt shared [fall term undergraduate enrollment numbers](#) over the past three years, showing trends for freshmen and total undergraduate students.

TFAB members discussed a number of factors related to enrollment, including demographic decline, which is impacting higher education across Oregon and the US, and the declining number of international students, which is offsetting other UO recruiting successes. Other issues considered by the TFAB include potential reasons for the decline in international students, recruitment efforts being made by UO in local, national, and international arenas, and potential changes to the way the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) distributes funds. Requests were made for international student data, attrition rates, data on student transfers, a summary table of all proposed FY2021 mandatory fee changes and information on how step in rates for guaranteed tuition could vary depending on whether the time value of money is factored into the calculations and whether some type of "insurance charge" is added.

Returning to the new tuition calculator, Moffitt asked for feedback on the format and elements of the calculator, which includes floating and guaranteed tuition options. TFAB members discussed the idea of a guaranteed tuition model, noting that the first four years are likely to be the most difficult to predict and manage.

Materials discussed during the TFAB meeting are available [online](#).

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.