

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | November 22, 2019

The 2019–2020 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Johnson Hall Conference Room at 3:00 p.m. on the UO’s Eugene campus on November 22, 2019. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents reviewed during the meeting are available [online](#).

Attending: Jim Brooks, Robin Clement, Bill Harbaugh (guest), Douglas Imaralu, Indigo Irving (guest), Nyla Jamison (guest), Randy Kamphaus, Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Andy Marcus, Aimée C. Marquez (guest), Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), Ryan Nguyen (*Daily Emerald*), Sabinna Pierre, Vanessa Robles, Hal Sadofsky, Doneka Scott, Janet Woodruff-Borden

Staff: Debbie Sharp (Office of the VPFA)

Welcome and introductions. Co-chair Kevin Marbury, vice president for student life, welcomed the group and invited all participants to introduce themselves.

Cost drivers analysis. Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration/chief financial officer, discussed the major Education and General (E&G) Fund Cost Drivers for FY2021. She noted that large cost drivers include faculty, staff and graduate employee (GE) staff and wage increases and medical cost increases, as this is an ‘off year’ for retirement cost increases. Moffitt did note some reasons for the projected \$500K saving on retirement costs, including a drop in pension bond rates and the fact that the university is increasingly paying Tier Three rates for PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) and Tier Four rates for the ORP (Optional Retirement Program), rather than the higher Tier One and Tier Two rates. TFAB members discussed the long-term impact of the recent PERS-related legislation and its projected impact on PERS rates, noting that this is difficult to project because of the influence of investments and the markets. The FY2021 E&G Fund Cost Drivers are available [online](#).

Cost management plan. Moffitt provided an overview of the cost management plan, highlighting some of the key steps the Board of Trustees and university leadership are taking to ensure cost management occurs on an ongoing basis. These steps include Board review of projected expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year and quarterly review of financial projections against actual spending rates. Moffitt shared the [Quarterly Financial Report](#) and [Dashboard](#) for the fourth quarter of FY2019. These documents were presented during the September 2019 meeting of the Board of Trustees. The full cost management plan is available [online](#).

Tuition calculator. Moffitt shared the [undergraduate tuition calculator](#), noting that the yellow highlighted sections are assumptions that can be changed. She explained that the calculator shows what happens to the budget when you change resident and non-resident undergraduate tuition rates, assuming stable enrollment. Moffitt noted that for each tuition increase, only 90% is applied to budget, with the other 10% going back into fee remissions (scholarships) for students.

Guaranteed tuition. Moffitt explained that the president is interested in exploring a guaranteed tuition program this year and that a conceptual overview will be presented to the Board in December. She made it clear that the president would provide TFAB with more direction if the Board provided positive feedback on the concept of guaranteed tuition in December. TFAB members discussed the idea of guaranteed tuition, noting that if such a program is pursued, there would have to be ample communications around the topic and time for the university community to transition to the new system.

Winter meetings and student forum planning. Marbury explained that the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) usually co-hosts a student forum with TFAB on tuition in early January, before too many of the winter TFAB meetings have taken place. He noted that background budget information is shared and discussed in fall term, preparing TFAB members to receive and review proposals in January before providing recommendations to the president in February. ASUO members shared their willingness to co-host a January student forum on tuition, offering students an opportunity for students to participate interactively and provide input on tuition. Some suggestions included having a panel on tuition and multiple TFAB members presenting tuition information. Student members indicated they would like to learn what students want to know about tuition in advance; this could include hosting an open house, or prompting students to enter questions via the [tuition website](#) or an Instagram poll. Marbury noted that a number of key tuition questions have been answered in [FAQs on the website](#).

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.