

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | January 18, 2019

The 2018–2019 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Johnson Hall Conference Room at 3:00pm on the UO's Eugene campus on January 18, 2019. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents reviewed during the meeting are available [online](#).

Attending: Jim Brooks, Marcilynn Burke (guest), Erica Daley, Zack Demars (guest), Imani Dorsey, Lizzy Elkins (guest), Maria Alejandra Gallegos-Chacón, Emily Halnon (guest) Tova Kruss, Stuart Laing, Laura Leete, Rocco Luiere (guest), Sarah Nutter, Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Aimée C. Marquez, Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), Doneka Scott, Kathie Stanley, 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.

Student Forum Feedback. Kevin Marbury thanked everyone for their participation as facilitators and notetakers during the January 15th student forum and asked for feedback on the event. Participants commented on the successful ASUO and Student Life outreach and coverage in *The Daily Emerald* in contributing to record student turnout for a TFAB student forum (approximately 120 people). Feedback on forum table discussions included: rumors concerning a potential 20% tuition increase; requests to improve the usability of the [TFAB website](#); finding ways to increase student understanding of the tuition-and-fee-setting process; FAQs linked to relevant cost drivers and tuition-related data; improved information on Pathway and scholarships; outline of the TFAB process online; and anticipating rising costs of attending university. A summary of Student Forum feedback is available [online](#).

Revised Meeting Schedule. Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, went briefly through the revised TFAB meeting schedule, explaining that staff would do their best to get members relevant materials to review at least 24–48 hours in advance.

Graduate tuition summary. Moffitt briefly discussed the overview of graduate tuition proposals, which is available [online](#). She explained that unlike undergrad tuition, where there is one base schedule for residents and non-residents, the graduate programs each have their own tuition schedules as they operate in distinct markets and each program has its own cost structure. Moffitt noted that there are close to 50 different graduate tuition schedules. She shared a summary of all of the proposed tuition increases for the graduate programs and noted that representatives from the College of Design and Law School had been invited to speak to TFAB because their proposed rates were on the higher end of the spectrum of percentage increases.

College of Design. Rocco Luiere, Associate Dean of Finance in the College of Design, explained that there are seven different graduate programs in the College of Design, each with two different billing rates. Luiere shared that for Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Historic Preservation, the proposed increase of 15% is for resident students only, will only affect students starting in Fall 2019—all of whom will have a tuition guarantee, and brings the program in line with market rates. It will not affect current students. He noted that the Sports Product Design program is asking for an increase of 7.1% to cover labor contract and PERS increases. Luiere explained that the PPPM program is requesting an 8% tuition increase to cover cost drivers and a staff position providing basic departmental support for faculty in the program.

Law School. Marcilynn Burke, Dean of the Law School, presented tuition increase proposals for the JD, LLM, and Conflict Resolution programs, noting that UO has the highest ranked law school in the state of Oregon and is providing the best law education at the lowest cost. She noted that PERS is the largest cost driver for the tuition increase proposals. She also explained that the Law School pays \$4,000 for each graduating JD student to complete a bar review course and that increased student needs require improved career development services—to increase assistance for students to find jobs after graduation. Dean Burke noted that even after the increase, the UO Law School residential tuition will still be less than comparative schools. Discussions ensued concerning market changes for law and the substantial scholarships given out by law schools—the UO discount rate covers about 50% of tuition on average. Moffitt also shared that the budget for the law school has been extremely challenging in recent years given market dynamics.

Moffitt asked TFAB members to review the summary of graduate tuition proposals in case members would like any other colleges or schools to present their proposals to TFAB. Janet Woodruff-Borden, Dean of the Graduate School, explained that of the 3,700 graduate students, many are graduate employees (GEs) and receive full tuition remissions. Moffitt further noted that in recent years graduate enrollment has not been very stable so graduate programs represent an unpredictable source of revenue for the university (i.e. in some years despite a graduate tuition rate increase, overall graduate tuition revenue did not rise). Moffitt then reiterated that TFAB is not responsible for formally approving graduate tuition proposals, however, any issues or concerns that TFAB members raise related to the proposals will be noted in the memo to the President. Members discussed the concept of a tuition guarantee, arguing that it helps students have some stability, but noted that it presents a very high risk to the university. All 2019–2020 graduate tuition proposals are available [online](#).

More Student Forum Feedback. The group returned to discussing feedback from the January 15th student forum, particularly regarding undergraduate non-resident tuition, which TFAB will make a recommendation on separately from undergraduate resident tuition. Also under discussion was the fact that most scholarships are awarded on a flat dollar amount basis, and that students may be unaware of increasing annual costs and the fact that many scholarships are not indexed to tuition.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:32pm.