

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | November 16, 2018

The 2018–2019 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Johnson Hall Conference Room at 8:30am on the UO's Eugene campus on November 16, 2018. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents reviewed during the meeting are available [online](#).

Attending: Jim Brooks, Erica Daley, Zack Demars (guest), Lizzy Elkins (guest), Emily Halnon (guest), Tova Kruss, Stuart Laing, Laura Leete, Sarah Nutter, Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Aimée C. Marquez, Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), J.P. Monroe, Chris Murray, Kathie Stanley, Janelle Stevenson, Janet Woodruff-Borden

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.

Cost drivers analysis. Moffitt reviewed the major FY2020 Education and General (E&G) fund cost drivers, explaining that these figures do not include all costs that will increase at the university (e.g., decisions made by individual departments to invest in new projects), but rather the large known costs such as negotiated salary increases with labor unions and health care costs that generally increase each year. She reminded the group that the E&G Fund is supported by tuition and state appropriation and that in the current year (FY19) there is likely to be a gap between projected revenue and projected expenses. This increases financial pressure to either cut costs or find other ways to cover the gap because while the University can handle a deficit for a year or two, it cannot operate on an ongoing basis with a deficit. Moffitt explained that the projected cost increases for the E&G fund for FY20 total \$24.1 million, which is an overall percentage increase of 4.45%. She also noted that departments funded outside of the E&G fund (e.g., Housing, Athletics, EMU, etc.) will face this same set of cost drivers, but will be responsible for covering these increases with their own funds. Tuition funds will not be used to cover these increases. The FY2020 E&G Cost Driver presentation is available [online](#).

Cost management plan. Moffitt then provided participants a plan for how the governing board and UO leadership are managing costs on an ongoing basis, in accordance with House Bill 4141. The plan details five major efforts being made on an ongoing basis by the Board of Trustees and university administration. Explaining that the Board annually reviews projected expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year, Moffitt shared a [document](#) showing FY19 projected operating budget expenditures and revenues. Moffitt then provided the [FY18 E&G Fund Year in Review](#) and the [Finance Summary for Q4 FY2018](#), explaining that the Board of Trustees quarterly reviews financial projections against actual spending rates. TFAB members learned that the Board of Trustees receives benchmarking information comparing UO staffing levels to those of public peer institutions. Finally, Moffitt explained that the Board of Trustees and leadership regularly discuss cost-saving initiatives and review costs, including state-mandated costs such as PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) and PEBB (Public Employees Benefit Board). The cost management plan is available [online](#).

Undergraduate - tuition calculator. Moffitt provided an overview of an undergraduate tuition calculator that TFAB will be using extensively in discussions during future meetings. The calculator assumes stable enrollment patterns and provides TFAB members with the ability to assess how various combinations of assumptions (e.g., state appropriation levels, resident tuition rates, non-resident tuition rates, enrollment growth, etc.) affect the institution's overall financial position.

Planning for Student Forum(s). Finally, TFAB members started planning for the January student forum. The session will most likely be held one night during the second week of winter term to ensure that as many students as possible can attend. The purpose of the student forum is to provide students with information about the university budget, FY2020 costs drivers, and other tuition and fee related information, and to gather input from them. TFAB members spent time discussing what information would be most useful to share with students during this session.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 10:00am.