

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | January 7, 2020

The 2019–2020 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Johnson Hall Conference Room at 8:00 a.m. on the UO's Eugene campus on January 7, 2020. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents reviewed during the meeting are available [online](#).

Attending: Jim Brooks, Robin Clement, Erica Daley, Keith Frazee (guest), Saul Hubbard (guest), Douglas Imaralu, Randy Kamphaus, Tova Kruss, Stuart Laing, Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Andy Marcus, Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Janet Mulkey (guest), Ryan Nguyen (*Daily Emerald*), Hal Sadofsky, Michael Schill (guest), Doneka Scott, Lauren Stanfield (guest), Kathie Stanley, Roger Thompson (guest), Angela Wilhelms (guest), 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.

Guaranteed Tuition. President Michael Schill thanked the group for their work and explained that the UO Board of Trustees is interested in exploring the concept of guaranteed tuition. Cognizant of the burden that tuition rate uncertainty places on students and families, the president asked TFAB to analyze guaranteed tuition and provide a proposal that includes an option for guaranteed tuition for undergraduate students, some guidelines for what the tuition rates would be for both new and existing students, and an analysis of the pros and cons of guaranteed tuition. In the case that TFAB does not recommend guaranteed tuition, the president requested that the group also provide recommended tuition rates for next year, assuming that the University will continue to annually increase tuition for all students. President Schill directed the group to his written memo outlining his request. The memo is available [online](#).

Course Fees. Stuart Laing, director of budget operations, presented on course fees for fiscal year 2020-21, explaining that some course fees have been canceled, some have been amended, and some new course fees are being proposed. He noted that course fees are reviewed annually by the Budget and Resource Planning (BRP) office, the office of the vice president for finance and administration, the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO), and are subject to public hearings. The fees for each academic year are available online at the [Budget and Resource Planning website](#).

Laing outlined three different types of fees: consumables, field trips, and private lessons in the School of Music and Dance. TFAB discussed some of the fees in detail, noting the added financial burden on students and the importance of only charging students for one-time educational costs associated with their specific courses. The proposed course fee changes for FY2020-21 are available [online](#).

Guaranteed Tuition. Roger Thompson, vice president for student services and enrollment management, introduced the concept of guaranteed tuition that was presented to the UO Board of Trustees in December 2019. Thompson explained that guaranteed tuition would set resident and non-resident undergraduate tuition rates per student credit hour for a set number of years, enabling students to know the full expected cost of education before starting at the UO. He presented potential advantages for students and the university, noting that it would be ideal to also provide a tuition guarantee for all existing students on campus. After presenting potential program parameters, risks, and examples of guaranteed tuition programs at other universities, Thompson explained that the next step in the process is for TFAB to discuss and analyze whether a guaranteed tuition program could be implemented effectively at the UO. Thompson's presentation is available [online](#).

TFAB members discussed how guaranteed tuition could help incoming students and their families understand and plan for education costs, noting there are a number of complex issues to discuss. In particular, concerns were raised about implications for current juniors if high guaranteed tuition rates were implemented in fall 2020 as those students start their final year. Members noted other topics to be discussed, including potentially providing support for current UO students if they are transitioned to a guaranteed tuition program, whether mandatory fees are included in the program, how to set summer tuition rates, and trying to predict impacts of the program.

Planning for the Forum. Marbury turned the discussion to planning for the student forum to be held on Tuesday, January 14th, 6:00pm-7:30pm in the Redwood Auditorium (EMU 214). Members suggested focusing the forum on guaranteed tuition to educate as many different people as possible about the concept and solicit preliminary feedback. Participants suggested using the January forum to discuss the concept of guaranteed tuition while gathering comments and questions for TFAB to consider; the president's forum in February would allow people to give feedback on concrete proposals and numbers. TFAB members concluded the meeting with suggestions for broadly disseminating the concept of guaranteed tuition and inviting students to the January 14th forum.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 a.m.