

## Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | February 11, 2020

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The 2019–2020 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Charles Dusty Miller Room 107 of the Erb Memorial Union (EMU) on the UO's Eugene campus at 8:00 a.m. on February 11, 2020. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents reviewed during the meeting are available [online](#).

**Attendance:** Jessica Brewer (guest), Jim Brooks, Marcilynn Burke (guest), Robin Clement, Erica Daley, Saul Hubbard (guest), Tova Kruss, Stuart Laing, Rocco Luiere (guest), Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Andy Marcus, Ella Meloy (guest), Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Ryan Nguyen (*Daily Emerald*), Randy Kamphaus, Hal Sadofsky, Doneka Scott, Sakina Shahid (guest), Kathie Stanley, Janet Woodruff-Borden, Angela Wilhelms (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.

**Tuition and Fee Policy Book.** JP Monroe, director of institutional research, talked through proposed edits to the UO Tuition and Fee Policy Book, which gives an overview of UO policies on tuition, mandatory enrollment fees, and other charges, fines, and fees. Monroe explained there are some date changes to reflect the 2020-21 academic year; removal of repeated text; and text added to clarify off-campus fees. Kathie Stanley, associate vice president and chief of staff in the Division of Student Life, noted that the Recreation Center Bond and Recreation Center Fee will be combined into a single fee. TFAB members noted that most of the changes seem minor and discussed online-only students, which are more prevalent in the summer. Monroe also mentioned that if the TFAB proceeds with a recommendation to move to a Guaranteed Tuition Program, there would be significant additional changes to the policy book related to the new program that TFAB would be asked to review. The redlined document is available [online](#).

**Undergraduate tuition.** Moffitt talked with meeting participants about key parameters related to guaranteed tuition, in the form of a proposal checklist, which is available [online](#). Moffitt discussed each of the operational and financial details, noting that conversations among the TFAB had encouraged consideration of the most robust program possible, including a guarantee for undergraduate tuition, all administratively controlled mandatory fees, differential tuition in the Honors College and Lundquist College of Business, discounted summer rates for each cohort, and potentially locking in the international student fee. She noted that the cohort year would start in the summer and run through spring because the vast majority of students start in summer or fall. Moffitt explained that time spent in exchange or study abroad programs would count as part of the guarantee period, while time serving with the U.S. military or other U.S. national defense services for those students called to active service would be exempt from the tuition guarantee window.

Turning to the financial details, Moffitt commented that the TFAB needs to decide the step-in rate for new undergraduates, and the tuition rate for continuing students from 2020. She noted that

summer rates for residents and non-residents could be discounted and guaranteed by cohort, and that the recommendation related to differential tuition for the Honors College was proposed to follow the normal practice of mirroring the resident tuition rate increase. Moffitt suggested that the [proposed differential tuition rate for the Lundquist College of Business](#) could be included in the guarantee and locked. Finally, she noted TFAB recommendations for an emergency reserve, explaining that the President and the Board of Trustees would be responsible for determining the structure and size of the reserve.

The group discussed whether it would be better for continuing students to be presented with one final tuition increase or a guaranteed set of smaller annual rate increases for a number of years. The TFAB also talked about what happens when new students take longer than their five guaranteed years: their sixth year tuition rate would be the same as the cohort behind, and their seventh year tuition rate would be the same as the cohort behind that. A question was raised about the potential number of students that could request an exemption from the guaranteed tuition time period based on service with the U.S. military. The checklist is available [online](#).

The group provided input on whether to pursue a recommendation for guaranteed tuition or also focus energy on making a recommendation for an annual tuition increase. Noting that there are risks inherent in the system of annual tuition increases as well as in guaranteed tuition, the group commented that guaranteed tuition would help with student recruitment and retention. Participants also commented that guaranteed tuition ensures students would no longer face the prospect of annual tuition increases, even during a financial downturn or following a decrease in state funding. The Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) decided to develop a recommendation for guaranteed tuition and not prepare a recommendation for another annual tuition increase.

Regarding continuing students, the group discussed whether to recommend a one-time modest increase or a guaranteed rate of smaller annual increase over the next four years. Participants accepted that some students may only want one increase, but noted that this structure would not be as fair to current juniors as they would be paying the increase and then leaving—without benefiting from the guaranteed tuition commitment. After discussing that a set of smaller annual increases over a number of years would help avoid pressure on a particular cohort, the group decided that the recommendation would include a final set of small increases for continuing students. The guaranteed tuition proposal checklist is available [online](#).

**Law school proposal - discussion with Dean Marcilynn Burke.** Marcilynn Burke, dean and Dave Frohnmayr Chair in Leadership and Law at the School of Law, presented the [tuition and fee proposal narrative](#) and [tuition worksheets](#) for the 2020-21 academic year. She explained that the tuition and fee increases for the Law JD program, the Conflict and Resolution (CRES) Master's program, and the LLM, were discussed with students, faculty, and staff. Dean Burke further explained that the law school initially considered a JD tuition increase of 6-8% and a fee increase for the JD program. Following discussions with students, faculty, and staff, as well as analysis of peer institutions, Dean Burke explained that law school is proposing a 7.0% tuition increase for the JD program and no increase in law-specific fees. The proposal also includes a 3.5% tuition increase for the CRES program and a 5.0% increase for the LLM program. Dean Burke noted that there are some key cost drivers at the law school that differ from the rest of the university, including funding for a staff position on student excellence, resources for a position pioneering diversity, equity and

leadership, and the costs of providing students a commercial preparation course for the bar exam. Meeting participants discussed scholarships being offered by the law school, successful enrollment results, improved communication about UO law school, analysis with competitor institutions, and the outlook for law school enrollment in the coming academic year.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.