

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | January 30, 2020

The 2019–2020 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the EMU 023 Lease Crutcher Lewis room on the UO’s Eugene campus at 8:00 a.m. on January 30, 2020. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents reviewed during the meeting are available [online](#).

Attendance: Jessica Brewer (guest), Jim Brooks, Robin Clement, Erica Daley, Debbie Davis (guest), James Ha (guest), Saul Hubbard (guest), Tova Kruss, Stuart Laing, Rocco Luiere (guest), Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Andy Marcus, Annika Mayne (guest), Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), Kate Mondloch (guest), JP Monroe, Randy Kamphaus, Hal Sadofsky, Jackson Smith, 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, invited all participants to introduce themselves and gave an overview of the meeting [agenda](#).

Discussion of requested data. JP Monroe, director of institutional research, presented a range of data and information requested by TFAB members and meeting participants during the previous meeting (January 24, 2020). He explained that the [Institutional Research website](#) has a wealth of publicly available information on student graduation and retention rates. As an example, he shared slides showing retention and graduation rates by gender and residency, and by ethnicity. Monroe then shared information on international student enrollment over time from fall 2008 through fall 2019, and the same information focusing on students from China. He also shared information on transfer student enrollment and mandatory fee history from AY 2009-10 through AY2020-21. These slides are available [online](#).

TFAB members discussed ways to interpret and understand the data, and how changing policies and practices at the University of California system impact enrollment, including international student enrollment, at the University of Oregon. Members asked questions about the UO recruitment of international students, whether a guaranteed tuition model should include mandatory fees, and how a guaranteed tuition model might impact student recruitment. Links to the [requested data presentation](#) and the data discussed are available on the tuition [website](#).

Graduate tuition increase proposals. Monroe summarized the 2020-21 academic year graduate tuition increase proposals, which are available [online](#). He noted that information from the College of Business is not yet available but would be shared in the coming days. Moffitt noted that the graduate tuition increases proposed are lower than in the past few years and that the roughly 30 different graduate tuition schedules factor in the need to cover cost increases in the schools and colleges, as well as issues related to each graduate program’s unique market and the pricing of comparative programs.

TFAB members discussed the fact that not all graduate students pay tuition, noting that PhD programs and many Masters programs offer students tuition waivers in return for graduate employee work. Members also discussed the impact of market forces on graduate programs and whether to invite representatives from the various schools and colleges to provide further information on their graduate tuition increases. Finally, participants requested graduate enrollment data for schools and colleges and a history of graduate tuition increases. The 2020-21 academic year graduate tuition increase proposals are available [online](#).

Undergraduate tuition. Moffitt presented a slide on guaranteed tuition, explaining the need to discuss step in rates. The slide (available [online](#)) shows actual data regarding the historical average annual tuition rate increases for resident and non-resident students over the last 10 years and the last 5 years. She shared how those average rates translate into “step in” cohort rates that would provide the institution with the same long-term projected recurring revenue streams. She explained that the step in rates would be for new students only and would be the guaranteed rate for a set number of years. Moffitt then showed step in rate tables for resident and non-resident students, based on various assumptions about the size of annual increases. This slide showing these tables is also available [online](#).

Moffitt then ran through a series of scenarios using the revised tuition calculator. She noted that the institution will not face a large PERS increase in FY2021, cost drivers are lower than expected due to identified savings in projected utility costs, state funding is expected to increase by around \$3.2 million, and that approximately \$6.0 million worth of budget cuts are still being realized. Moffitt explained that the tuition calculator has two tabs: guaranteed tuition and floating tuition.

TFAB members discussed the psychological impact of a large step in rate for prospective students and the potential implications for recruitment, noting that it would be important to talk with Roger Thompson from Student Services and Enrollment Management. They talked about how UO tuition costs and aid packages compare to other schools, the risks to the institution in a guaranteed tuition model, and the time it would take for the UO to recover from a large cut in state appropriations. Members further discussed the importance of an insurance charge to ensure the UO is able to afford the promise of a fixed tuition rate in return for a high quality of education. Finally, members discussed the importance of clear messaging around guaranteed tuition, and the benefits for students of any transition to that model.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.