

The 2018–2019 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Johnson Hall Conference Room on the UO's Eugene campus at 10:30am on April 19, 2019. Below is a summary of the meeting.

**Attending:** Odalis Aguilar (guest), Jim Brooks, Erica Daley, Zack Demars (guest), Imani Dorsey, Maria Alejandra Gallegos-Chacón, Bill Harbaugh (guest), Tova Kruss, Stuart Laing, Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Aimée Marquez, Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Chris Murray, Sabinna Estephania Pierre (guest), Vanessa Robles (guest), Philip Scher, Kathy Stanley, Janet Woodruff-Borden.

**Staff:** Debbie Sharp (Office of the VPFA)

**Welcome and introductions.** Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president of finance and administration and CFO, welcomed the group and invited all participants to introduce themselves. Moffitt explained that in preparation for the May 7<sup>th</sup> TFAB meeting (5:30–7:30pm, JHCR) which will focus on specific recommendations for resident undergraduate tuition, today's discussion would focus on a few topics, including more information about the resident student class. She also asked that everyone please try to attend the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting as the group will need to develop final recommendations to the president on that date.

**Resident class data.** Jim Brooks, assistant vice president for student services and enrollment management and director of student financial aid and scholarships, presented data on resident students and the [PathwayOregon program](#).

Brooks shared information on the current undergrad resident population (10,425 students as of fall 2018) and PathwayOregon, which is a [scholarship support program](#) that covers full tuition and fees for resident Oregonians who are academically qualified and Federal Pell Grant eligible. PathwayOregon funds make up the difference between the student's tuition and fees, and any federal and state aid that they are receiving. Discussing the demographics of PathwayOregon students, Brooks explained that there has been a growth in Latinx recipients (to 24.4%) and some growth in Black or African American recipients (to 4.2%), acknowledging that there is more progress to be made. He noted that 56% of Pathway students are first generation college students, as compared with 19% of non-Pathway UO resident students. Brooks shared some statistics concerning student debt, noting that this is a concern for the university and the TFAB. He explained that of the 387 PathwayOregon students in the 2018 class, 82 of them graduated with no debt. By comparison, 44.1% of resident students and 56.4% of all undergraduates in the 2018 graduating class had no debt. The average debt for resident seniors in 2018 was \$24,076, as compared with the average debt for all graduating seniors, which was \$26,164.

TFAB members asked a number of questions about the PathwayOregon program, graduation data, and student debt. For example, members were particularly concerned about Pell-eligible residents who are not covered by the Pathway program, commenting that they probably carry the highest debt burden compared to other resident students. The group discussed the challenges faced by students who do not qualify for federal or state grants and struggle to pay higher education costs, the lack of funding for low-income transfer and non-Pathway eligible students, and financial issues faced by Pathway students who struggle to pay for housing and books, even though the program pays for tuition and fees.

TFAB members noted that while Pathway students are protected from tuition increases, there are a number of other resident students who will be significantly impacted by large increases in resident tuition and mandatory enrollment fees.

**Budget cut updates.** Moffitt updated the TFAB on progress with UO budget cuts, confirming that the university plans to cut a total of \$11.6 million recurring from the general fund budget. She explained the president decided to protect some functions at the UO including recent investments in student advisors and counselors, Title IX and public safety functions, and positions such as front line recruiting and fundraising that generate income for the institution. He also instructed the provost and vice presidents to make strategic cuts that minimize the impact on the [university mission](#) while recognizing that any cuts adversely affect people. Moffitt noted that administrative units face larger percentage cuts on average than academic units, and that there will be fewer tenure-track faculty (TTF) hired through the [Institutional Hiring Plan](#) next year. TFAB members discussed how schools and colleges have to manage to their budgets and noted that deferred maintenance money from the state does not begin to cover the university's infrastructural maintenance needs.

**Sensitivity Analysis.** Moffitt presented a sensitivity analysis that looked at various potential outcomes related to (1) legislative funding in the PUSF, and (2) potential projected enrollment. For each scenario, the analysis provided information on two key questions:

- (1) If resident tuition were kept under 5%, how much of a budget gap would remain after the institution implements the announced \$11.6 million of recurring budget cuts?
- (2) If after the \$11.6 million of budget cuts were implemented the institution were to balance the FY2020 budget by increasing resident, undergraduate tuition to fill the remaining budget gap, what tuition rate increase would be necessary?

The analysis looked at PUSF (Public University Support Funding) funding scenarios that ranged from +\$40.5 million to +\$120 million and projected enrollment that ranged from 90% to 100% of non-resident growth targets. It's important to note that this analysis was based on the existing \$7.9 million FY2019 budget gap (Q2 estimate) and the assumption that the President's announced \$11.6 million of budget cuts are fully implemented.

TFAB members discussed university tolerance for maintaining a budget gap, other universities' enrollment experiences, and positive indications for student enrollment at the UO in the coming year. The group noted that deposit information should be available before the May 7 meeting, which should help inform TFAB's recommendation to the president about resident undergraduate tuition.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11:33am.