

## Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | January 23, 2019

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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 8:30am on January 23, 2019. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents reviewed during the meeting are available [online](#).

**Attending:** Odalis Aguilar (guest), Deb Beck (guest), Jim Brooks, Donna Chittenden (guest), Erica Daley, Zack Demars (guest), Imani Dorsey, Chaucie Edwards (guest), Lizzy Elkins (guest), Maria Alejandra Gallegos-Chacón, Carol Gering (guest) Michael Griffel (guest), Emily Halnon (guest), Tova Kruss, Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Aimée C. Marquez, Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Chris Murray, Tan Perkins (guest), Doneka Scott, Janelle Stevenson, Kathie Stanley, Roger Thompson (guest), Janet Woodruff-Borden

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

**Welcome and introductions.** Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, welcomed the group and invited all participants to introduce themselves. She noted that the meeting would commence with a discussion of housing fees, which is not a mandatory fee but affects a large number of students. Moffitt suggested TFAB next consider the summary list of 2019–20 mandatory fees and proposals received and the Student Health Service Fee proposal. She then suggested TFAB review the special fees and fines, and course fees, leaving time for Carol Gering, associate vice president of online and distance education in the provost's office, to explain and take questions on the proposed new online course fee. Finally, Moffitt noted that she hoped to reserve time for a discussion on undergraduate tuition.

**Housing fee proposal.** Roger Thompson, vice president for student services and enrollment management introduced the housing fee proposal, noting that across the division, not many fee increases were being proposed. He explained that during the last two years, 50% of the housing inventory has been held at the same rate, which has resulted in the UO having the lowest room and board rates in the Pac-12. He further noted that even after the proposed housing increase, they expect the UO rates to still be the lowest in the Pac-12. Michael Griffel, assistant vice president and director of university housing, gave an overview of the various room types and dining plan options, which aim to give students as many options as possible to meet their needs and ability to pay.

Questions raised by TFAB members included specifics about meal plans, a first-year student's ability to use cost as a basis for petitioning to live off-campus, the student success rationale behind the on-campus residence requirement for freshmen, and the correlation between increasing housing rates and improved quality and availability of student housing. Thompson clarified that rates are increasing because 50% of the housing stock has had no increases for two years while there have been increases in labor costs for professional and student staff, as well as significant maintenance costs. Discussions ensued concerning market analysis comparisons regarding local housing costs and the importance of ensuring that UO housing remains competitive. Thompson explained that housing fees help pay for the maintenance costs of older buildings as well as the phased demolishing, updating, and rebuilding of

new buildings He noted that the unit is doing everything possible to keep costs down and to avoid significantly raising rates for students.

Concerns were raised by some TFAB members about differences between on-campus and off-campus housing costs. In particular, many students were concerned about the overall cost of on-campus housing, particularly given the live-on requirement for first year students. Discussion centered around the competitiveness of the rate structure of on-campus housing vs. off campus options. TFAB also discussed that while students can apply for a waiver to the live-on requirement based on cost considerations, this option is not well known. The [housing fee proposal](#) and supplemental documents are available [online](#).

**Mandatory fees.** Moffitt shared the 2019–20 Fee Increase Summary document (available [online](#)), explaining that the document shows the fee rate proposals received to date, including percentage and dollar changes. She reminded TFAB members that the School of Law is on a semester system (hence the larger per semester charges) and that the incidental fee is still being decided—through an ASUO process.

**Health and counseling fee proposal.** Thompson summarized the Student Health Service Fee proposal, explaining that the request is for \$35 per term and results directly from increasing concern around mental and physical health issues. He explained that more students are seeking help for mental health issues and that the ASUO concerns around physical and mental health were taken into consideration. Thompson noted that the Student Health Advisory Committee and Student Advisory Board endorsed the proposed fee increase. TFAB discussions noted the scales of charts used to depict health measures, the waiting period at the University Health Center, the need to be responsive to student demands, and the importance of intersectionality in health issues. The Student Health Fee proposal is [online](#).

**Course fees.** Moffitt explained that TFAB reviews a summary of the class-related fees for the 2019–20 academic year and 2020 summer session (available [online](#)). She noted that there are open public hearings on the full book of fees and that the Budget and Resource Planning unit provides the summary of class-related fees. Donna Chittenden, program manager with Budget and Resource Planning, gave an overview of the document, noting the cancelled fees, new fees, and amended fees. She highlighted one proposed fee: an \$80 fee proposed by International Studies to purchase a DNA genetic testing and analysis kit from *23andMe*. It was recommended that this fee not be approved because sale prices are often lower, allowing students to source the kit at lower prices. Following discussions, Moffitt summarized the group’s recommendation, which was that if there are no quality issues, it is better to have people buy the kit directly rather than include the price as part of course fees. Chittenden shared information on the annual open forum to comment on proposed changes to course fees and non-instructional-related fees and fines cited in the Special Fees, Fines, Penalties and Service Charges Fee Book: February 18 from 9am and February 19 from 3pm—both in 260 Condon Hall.

*Online Course Fee.* Moffitt explained that in previous years the UO has had a decentralized approach to online education and has lacked a holistic strategy across the institution. She shared that the University has hired Carol Gering, associate vice provost of online and distance education, to develop a more cost effective and streamlined approach to online and education across the institution. Gering shared plans

to add online courses to offer scheduling flexibility, increase timely graduation, and provide consistent student support around the technology, processes, and procedures for all UO online classes. The memo on the proposed online course fee is available [online](#). Discussions focused on the positive impacts that online courses have on students in terms of scheduling flexibility and recruiting non-traditional students. Members also discussed the importance of ensuring students have the choice of in-person as well as online courses, analyzing how online courses affect student success, focusing online course availability in lower division classes to help alleviate bottlenecks, and offering students value in terms of increased flexibility and options.

**Undergraduate tuition.** Moffitt noted that there was not enough meeting time remaining in the meeting to discuss undergraduate tuition. She urged the group to spend time using the tuition calculator to explore scenarios for non-resident tuition rates because TFAB needs to make recommendations by the end of next week. Moffitt noted that the group should consider growth assumptions and options for state appropriations, and bring preliminary ideas to the next meeting (1/30). She also reminded members that the funding gap figures indicate the level of other revenue increases and cost cutting that would be necessary to balance the budget.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 9:58am.