

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon Meeting Summary | March 8, 2019

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 3:00pm on March 8, 2019. Below is a summary of the meeting.

Attending: Jim Brooks, Erica Daley, Imani Dorsey, Maria Alejandra Gallegos-Chacón, Tova Kruss, Stuart Laing, Laura Leete, Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Aimée Marquez, Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Sarah Nutter, Philip Scher, Kathy Stanley, Janelle Stevenson

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.

Updates. Moffitt updated the TFAB on a number of events that had taken place since the February 1, 2019 meeting. First, she thanked the group for their work on their February [recommendations to President Schill](#). Moffitt noted that the president [invited comment on TFAB's recommendations](#) in person at the February 11th student tuition forum and that his recommendations to the board were later posted online for comment. She also explained that the president accepted the recommendations and only made one minor change in his proposal to the Board: he added 25 cents to the Health Center fee so that students would be billed in whole dollars, reducing the administrative accounts receivable burden of following up with students and families who inadvertently did not pay their entire bill. Moffitt shared that the UO Board of Trustees [approved the proposed tuition rates](#) for nonresident undergraduate and graduate students as well as the proposed mandatory institutional fees.

Moffitt then briefed the TFAB on [updated FY2020 Education and General Fund cost drivers](#), noting that the projections for increased retirement costs had decreased from \$7.6 million to \$7.1 million. She then shared the [FY2019 Q2 short form](#) and the [updated second quarter FY2019 E&G projection](#), which shows a current estimated shortfall of \$7.9 million, up from the \$5.5 million shortfall forecasted in the first quarter. She also discussed President Schill's March 5th [message to the University of Oregon campus community](#), which noted the need for more state support, the unpredictability of student enrollment, the substantial drop in international enrollment in the past three years, and the need to reduce annual operating costs by up to \$11 million annually. Moffitt noted that the president has been meeting with campus leaders, including the ASUO, leadership from faculty and staff labor unions, senate leadership, the senate budget committee and deans, about ways to handle the budget cuts strategically. She emphasized the president understands that next year's budget shortfall is too large to be covered by tuition increases alone and that he is trying to move quickly and effectively to address the issue.

Moffitt informed the TFAB that the co-chairs of the joint Committee on Ways & Means had released their recommended budget for the 2019-2021 biennium (see impact summary by [Government & Community Relations](#)). She noted that the co-chair's budget represents a \$200,000 increase in operating funding for the university, which is an improvement on the \$2.7 million decrease in funding included in the Governor's Recommended Budget. ASUO student members explained they had been actively lobbying in Salem for increased higher education funding in the investment budget.

Undergraduate tuition. Moffitt noted that the TFAB will be discussing resident, undergraduate tuition rates and needs to make recommendations to the president in May. She shared a revised tuition calculator, including updated cost drivers, new projected shortfall, revised state appropriations, cost cutting figures, estimated student growth, and impact of declining international enrollment.

TFAB members discussed the impact of declining international student numbers—as the graduating international seniors leave the university—and how this may neutralize the positive impact of increased student recruitment. Members also deliberated the possibility of carrying part of the budget gap into the next financial year, the importance of student retention, and how much of the cost cutting will be complete in FY2020. The group considered the fact that Oregon’s seven public universities need a collective \$120 million increase in operating funds to keep resident undergraduate tuition increases under 5%. Dean Nutter thanked student members for the work they are doing on behalf of the university, including lobbying in Salem.

Below is a list of a few of the scenarios that TFAB reviewed during the meeting using the tuition calculator tool:

Updated FY2019 E&G Fund Projected Budget Deficit	Updated FY2020 Projected Cost Drivers	Updated FY2020 Change in State Appropriation	Announced Cuts to UO Budget	Incremental Funding – Growth Initiative	Projected Decline in Int’l Students	Resident Tuition Rate Increase	Non-Resident Tuition Rate Increase (approved by Board)	Remaining Gap (to be covered by cost cutting and other revenue)
\$7.9 million	\$23.6 million	\$200,000	\$11 million	\$7.5 million	\$7 million	4.61% (\$10 per credit)	2.97% (\$22 per credit)	\$8.9 million
\$7.9 million	\$23.6 million	\$200,000	\$11 million	\$5 million	\$7 million	19.82% (\$43 per credit)	2.97% (\$22 per credit)	\$62,934
\$7.9 million	\$23.6 million	\$8 million	\$11 million	\$7.5 million	\$7 million	4.61% (\$10 per credit)	2.97% (\$22 per credit)	\$1.1 million

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.