

The 2020–2021 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met virtually at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, January 15, 2021. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents discussed during the meeting are available [online](#).

**Attending:** Melynn Bates, Isaiah Boyd, Jim Brooks, Donna Chittenden (guest), Robin Clement, Lara Grant, Patricia Hersh, Saul Hubbard (guest), Zack Johnson (guest), Andy Karduna (guest), Stuart Laing, Joanna Mann (guest), Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), Juan-Carlos Molleda, Hayley Porter (guest), Doneka Scott, Aidan Short, Edna Ventura, Whitney Warth, Harry Wonham, and Janet Woodruff-Borden.

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

**Introductions.** Co-chair Kevin Marbury, vice president for student life, welcomed the group and noted a number of guests attending the meeting.

**Debrief of the tuition forum.** Marbury facilitated a group discussion about the student tuition forum, which was held on Tuesday, January 12. Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, noted that 59 people registered for the forum, all of which were sent [a document](#) of frequently asked questions, TFAB-related acronyms, and an overview of the tuition-setting process for 2020-21. Moffitt shared that about 20 people joined the forum for the [budget briefing](#), noting that attendance declined during the breakout sessions. The group talked about the discussions that took place in the breakout rooms, including questions related to individual tuition and fee questions, inquiries about post-pandemic online learning opportunities, technical difficulties encountered during online learning, the strategic investment process, and the annual UO budget deficit.

**Course fees.** Moffitt provided some context for the course fees process, whereby units submit course fee proposals that outline underlying associated costs to the office of Budget and Resource Planning (BRP). She explained that these costs are reviewed by the BRP office, the VPFA office, ASUO, and that a public hearing on the proposed fees is also held. Moffitt further noted that any of the fees related to courses are reviewed by TFAB, with unusual fees or changes being particularly highlighted for the group.

Stuart Laing, director of the office of budget and resource planning, provided an [overview of course fees](#). He explained that course fees usually involve consumable materials (e.g., art supplies) or field trip fees associated with specific courses so that students who are taking those courses pay the fees rather than sharing the costs across the entire student body as part of tuition. Laing explained that there are 14 new course fees, 18 cancelled course fees, and 339 course fees that involve changed rates. He noted that course fees are subject to public hearings each year, information for which will be available on the [Budget and Resource Planning website](#). TFAB discussed some of the fees in detail. The proposed course fee changes for FY2020-21 are available [online](#).

**Graduate tuition proposals.** Moffitt provided a brief overview of the [2021-22 graduate tuition proposals](#), explaining that deans provide the Graduate School with proposals for the next year of graduate tuition increases. She noted that each graduate program operates in its own market, that

there are different fees for residents and non-residents, and that there is currently no formal guaranteed tuition program on a graduate level, although a few programs use fee remissions to maintain tuition levels for various cohorts of students. The group discussed proposed increases related to the College of Business MBA program as well as the concept of tuition plateaus in some graduate programs.

Hayley Porter, a student in the UO School of Law and president of the University of Oregon Student Bar Association made a statement related to tuition increases for the law school. She discussed the adverse impacts of the pandemic on the supportive community approach to law school represented by the Oregon law community, and requested that law school tuition rates not be increased for the coming year. Zack Johnson, current law student, explained that the law student association had discussed the school's overall financial situation with the dean, who shared she was considering 3% and 5% tuition rate increases in future. TFAB members discussed recent trends in law school tuition increases, budget challenges, and the importance of talking with a representative from the law school about the proposed tuition rate increase and associated law school budget issues.

A summary of the 2021-22 academic year graduate tuition increase proposals are available [online](#).

**Overview of mandatory fees.** Moffitt explained that mandatory fees are part of the guaranteed tuition program for new undergraduate students. This means that mandatory fee rates will not change for students who are in the first cohort of undergraduate students in the guaranteed tuition program. This year TFAB will make recommendations on mandatory fees for the incoming cohort of undergraduate students, continuing undergraduate students (those who started prior to the summer of 2020), and graduate students. She shared a [summary document](#) of the proposed FY22 mandatory fees for each group of students, noting that detailed proposals will be discussed in future meetings. Moffitt reminded the group that the ASUO Incidental Fee goes through a different process. The summary document is available [online](#).

**Recruitment information.** Jim Brooks, associate vice president for Student Services and Enrollment Management and director of student financial aid and scholarships, shared information on resident and non-resident freshmen entering UO. He talked through the details of [two slides](#) showing where entering UO freshman came from in 2015 and 2020. The information presented by Brooks was shared with the UO Board of Trustees in December 2020 and is available [online](#).

**Undergraduate tuition.** Moffitt provided the group with updates on federal funding, sharing information on money received by UO during the first round of the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) act. She explained that the first round of funding included approximately \$8 million for direct grants to students (\$7.7 million of which has already been distributed to students), in addition to \$8 million received for institutional expenses, which is covering expenses such as refunds to students for fees related to housing and rec center fees, investments in the development of online classes, PPE, and enhanced cleaning efforts. The next round of federal funding has not yet been received but it is estimated that a further \$8 million will be distributed to students in the form of support grants and \$16 million will be allocated for institutional expenses. The group discussed the potential budget implications of being able to use federal funding to help the budget, noting the challenges and long-term implications of using one-time funding to cover recurring financial gaps.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.