

Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon
Meeting Summary | February 2, 2021

The 2020–2021 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met virtually at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents discussed during the meeting are available [online](#).

Attendance: Melynn Bates, Isaiah Boyd, Jim Brooks, Robin Clement, Lara Grant, Bill Harbaugh (guest), Patricia Hersh, Saul Hubbard (guest), Stuart Laing, Rocco Luiere (guest), Joanna Mann (guest), Kevin Marbury (co-chair), Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), Juan-Carlos Molleda, Rob Mullens (guest), Eric Roedl (guest), Doneka Scott, Conrad Sproul, Kathie Stanley, Greg Stripp (guest), Edna Ventura, Whitney Warth, Angela Wilhelms (guest), Harry Wonham, and Janet Woodruff-Borden.

Staff: Debbie Sharp (Office of the VPFA)

Introductions. Co-chair Kevin Marbury, vice president for student life, welcomed TFAB members and guests to the meeting. He then provided an overview of the planned agenda for the meeting.

Athletics Ticket Fee Proposal. Rob Mullens, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, introduced himself and invited Deputy Athletic Director Eric Roedl to talk through information on [Pac-12 student athletic fees and institutional support](#), as well as the [Athletics Ticket Fee proposal](#). Roedl explained that since 1987, the ASUO and the Department of Athletics have been in a partnership which provided tickets and seating allocation to UO students for UO football and basketball games, as well as complimentary admission to students to all other UO athletic events. He shared that last week the full ASUO Senate decided to reallocate Incidental Fee (I-Fee) funds away from the Athletics Student Ticket agreement to other initiatives. Roedl noted that as a result of the ASUO Senate decision, UO Athletics is losing \$1.8 million per year of funding. The department is proposing a \$29.50 fee per term for incoming undergraduate and graduate students. Because the fee will not be charged to current students, it will take the Athletics Department four years to fully recoup the lost revenue. The proposed fee would only be charged during the academic year as there are not regularly scheduled athletic competitions in the summer. The fee would enable new students to gain access to UO sports events that connect them to the wider UO community.

Roedl shared that approximately 65% of I-Fee-paying students utilize the existing ASUO contract to attend at least one athletic event each year and noted that the support of the UO student body is a key part of the success of UO student-athletes and athletics programs. He further explained that in terms of [institutional support for the public Pac-12 schools](#), Oregon Athletics receives the lowest combination of student fees and other forms of institutional support. Information shared showed that 9 out of the 10 other public PAC-12 institutions either charge a direct student athletics ticket fee or allocate significant funds to athletics to pay for student athletics tickets out of their student incidental fee. The only school not to do so is University of Washington, which instead provides \$4.5 million of non-resident tuition waivers to their athletic department each year. Roedl explained that the proposed fee would provide incoming students with complimentary access to most UO Athletics events, and access to a specified number of football and basketball tickets, in an arrangement that would mirror the previous ASUO-Athletics

Student Ticket Agreement. Roedl noted that, moving forward, plans would have to be put in place to determine how best to manage access to UO Athletics events for current undergraduate UO students who would not be charged the new fee. TFAB members discussed potential implications of the proposed \$29.50/term fee for incoming UO students, how the proposed fee compares to competitor schools, other ways for students to access athletics events, whether financial aid would cover the proposed Athletics Ticket Fee, and the connections between the UO student body and UO athletics events, including the heightened importance of these in a post-Covid world. The Athletics Ticket Fee proposal document, including financial considerations, is available [online](#).

Undergraduate tuition. Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, discussed some important budget context before encouraging the group to discuss a range of undergraduate tuition scenarios. She explained that it is not feasible to try to fully cover large financial shortfalls (e.g., if Covid continues for another year) using tuition increases, noting that large gaps would have to be covered with significant budget cuts as well. Moffitt also explained that instead of trying to completely eliminate the projected FY22 budget gap, it might be prudent to look at a range of scenarios, particularly where enrollment is concerned. The group discussed a range of scenarios with assumptions for enrollment varying from 95% to 102% of enrollment targets and state appropriation figures that varied from a cut of \$3 million to an augment of \$2.5 million to the UO E&G fund. TFAB members talked about current market conditions, the high level of uncertainty facing students and the institution, and the importance of trying to keep tuition increases under 5% for the first-year class, particularly considering the myriad financial challenges faced by students and their families. The group requested a way to easily calculate the total increase in tuition and mandatory fees for new undergraduate students—particularly considering the proposed Athletics Ticket Fee—in order to make more informed recommendations.

Tuition and Fee Policy Book. Moffitt shared that the group would be receiving the UO Tuition and Fee Policy Book for review before the next meeting. She explained that the book covers the university's technical policies concerning how tuition is charged and has been updated for FY22. Moffitt asked the group to review the fee book and share questions or suggestions about the proposed edits at the next meeting.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.