**Tuition and Fee Advisory Board of the University of Oregon**

**Meeting Summary | January 26, 2024**

The 2023–2024 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in room 023 (Lease Crutcher Lewis) of the Erb Memorial Union (EMU) at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 26, 2024. A remote option was available by request; two participants attended the meeting remotely. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents discussed during the session are available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/updates).

**Attending**: Eric Alexander (guest), Kersey Bars, Elliot Berkman, Krista Borg, Jim Brooks, Renée Dorjahn, Sorin Dragoiu (guest), Brian Fox, Heather Gustafson, Laura Lee McIntyre, Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Lynn Nester (guest), Finn O'Donnell, Abhijit Pandit (guest), Jasmine Ramirez-Miranda, Hal Sadofsky, Grant Schoonover, Kathie Stanley (online), Chloé Webster, Kris Winter (co-chair), Ben Young, Daily Emerald reporter (name not noted).

**Staff**: Debbie Sharp (Office of the Senior VPFA, online).

**Introductions**.Co-chair Kris Winter, interim vice president for student life, provided an overview of the meeting agenda, welcomed everyone, and invited participants to introduce themselves.

**Student forum debrief.** Co-chair Winter thanked the group for their participation and support of the January 23rd ASUO-TFAB student forum on tuition. Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) President Chloé Webster also expressed gratitude for the level of engagement from the group.

TFAB members discussed a wide range of student priorities and concerns that were raised during the forum small-group discussions. The group shared student input on the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition, the challenge created because of the UO’s particularly low level of state appropriations, student interest in being part of the solution to budget challenges, and the student desire for state funding advocacy to be part of a wider collective effort that includes UO leadership as well as students. Other discussions included the need for more scholarships and support resources, the lack of workshops on financial literacy—particularly loans and payment plans, the need for more visibility on UO fees, and the call to address the rising cost of tuition, which is preventing many in-state and out-of-state students from enrolling in college.

The group shared stories of students who had left the university because of financial pressures, the experiences of a student with multiple jobs and a full course load struggling to study and cover bills, and input from other students who are very fearful of the amount of debt they are accumulating. Meeting participants noted that course fees, the cost of textbooks, the rising cost of housing, and other costs of education—in addition to tuition—were mentioned repeatedly by students as areas of concern.

TFAB members expressed how difficult it is to learn about state appropriation challenges and the immense budget challenges many students face, but yet, still have to make recommendations to raise tuition to cover UO budgetary needs.

**Technology fee**. Abhijit Pandit, the vice president for information services and chief information officer, presented a proposed increase to the technology fee for 2024-25. He explained the primary uses of the tech fee: cybersecurity tools, mission-critical software, and replacing infrastructure that has reached the end of its life. Pandit emphasized that end-of-life equipment and inflating technology costs are the main areas of need for the technology fee. He noted that the university is increasingly dependent on technology to meet its mission and that current funding levels do not meet the demands of the institution. The proposal is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/information-services-tech-fee-2024).

The group asked questions about what the UO is doing for cybersecurity, the growing cost of cybersecurity, whether the tech fee covers cybersecurity insurance (which it does not), and if the tech fee is rising in line with inflation. TFAB members also discussed the importance of making sure UO users are educated about cybersecurity risks and offering appropriate, accessible cybersecurity information sessions.

**Student Life mandatory fee proposals**. Co-chair Winter shared information on two proposals from auxiliaries in the Division of Student Life. She explained that the Rec Center is funded by the Rec Fee and the Erb Memorial Union (EMU) receives funding from the Student Union fee. Winter thanked members of the Student Life team responsible for leading the auxiliary units and managing the division’s finances, and creating the UO mandatory fee projection model.

Winter noted that revenue from the Rec Fee and Student Union fees support operational costs and debt service (bond payments). She also explained that the Student Life auxiliaries are impacted by rising labor costs and inflation on general expenses—as is the rest of the university—and that auxiliaries are required to maintain reserves for building maintenance costs, to cover debt payments, for operations, and for major capital expenses. The 2024-25 mandatory fees proposal from the Division of Student Life is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/default/files/2024-01/student-life-24-25-mandatory-fee-presentation-to-tfab.pdf).

The group asked about how reserves are built up, how the level of needed reserves is decided, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on reserves. People also asked for details about other revenue streams for the EMU and Rec Center, and information on new staff and projected salary increases. Winter shared insight into how professional staff are necessary to support student staff on campus, particularly in areas around safety and security.

**Graduate tuition**. JP Monroe, director of institutional research, presented a summary of 2024-25 academic year tuition and fee increases for graduate programs. He explained that most graduate programs are increasing by around 3.0%, with some above that—primarily in the School of Law—and a few below that threshold, which include programs in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Design. The summary document is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/default/files/2024-01/2024-25-grad-tuition-summary.pdf).

The group discussed the wide range of graduate programs, the fact that graduate tuition does not use the undergraduate guaranteed tuition model, how tuition remission functions in various colleges, and how scholarships and graduate student funding operate within the College of Education.

**Undergraduate tuition**. Brian Fox, assistant vice president of budget, financial analysis, and data analytics, walked the group through the undergraduate tuition calculator once again. The group proposed a range of different scenarios for resident and non-resident undergraduate tuition rates in FY2024. TFAB members discussed possible enrollment levels in the coming year, the challenges of increasing tuition, and how much comparator institutions are likely to raise their tuition.

**Adjournment**. The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.