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

**Meeting Summary | October 26, 2021**

The 2021–2022 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in the Miller Room (107) of the EMU at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, October 26. Below is a summary of the meeting; documents discussed during the meeting are available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/updates).

**Attending**: Krista Borg, Jim Brooks, Josh Buetow, Pamanee Chaiwat, Robin Clement, Patricia Hersh, Kimberly Johnson, Stuart Laing, Aaron Lewis, Kevin Marbury, Jamie Moffitt, JP Monroe,

Gabe Paquette, Phil Scher, Shreya Silori, Kathie Stanley, Gina Thompson

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

**Introductions**. Co-chair Kevin Marbury, vice president for student life, welcomed the group and invited participants to introduce themselves. Marbury followed up on the discussion of the TFAB charge from the previous meeting, noting that there is a process for the preparation of the final report of recommendations to the president. Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration and CFO, explained that in early February, the co-chairs prepare a draft report, which is a summary of all of the TFAB discussions and recommendations. She noted that members provide input and suggested edits to the report before the final TFAB recommendations are sent to the president for consideration. Moffitt also shared that if TFAB members have other views that are not reflected in the recommendations document, they are welcome to prepare separate reports for attachment and delivery to the president. Finally, she noted that the report to the president summarizing TFAB recommendations is the final step in the 2021-2022 TFAB process. Moffitt noted that there will likely be quick turn-around times on the editing rounds of the memo and thanked TFAB members in advance for their help with reviewing the recommendations memo.

**UO Budget Briefing and Impact of Covid-19 on Institutional Finances.** Moffitt outlined the five main topics of her presentation: the structure of the UO budget, sources of university funding, cost drivers, challenges for the Education and General fund, and the impact of Covid-19 on university finances. She explained the different components of the Education and General (E&G) fund, and other funds in the university budget, as well as historical trends in state appropriation to the university and the increasing dependence on non-resident tuition. Moffitt detailed the main drivers of annual cost increases, including employee salary increases, medical costs, institutional expenses, strategic investments, and the state-mandated minimum wage increase, which primarily affects student positions. She described key challenges to the E&G fund, including FY19 and FY20 deficits, the increasing costs of the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS), declining international student enrollment, and the extremely low level of state appropriations as compared with other AAU or Pac-12 public universities. The full presentation is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/tuition2.uoregon.edu/files/2021-10/final-tfab-budget-presentation-10-26-21.pdf).

The group discussed how the museums are funded, how most donor money is restricted for use to very specific purposes (for example scholarships), the impact of the hiring freeze on the budget, the PERS system, and the fact that at least 10% of tuition revenue is channeled back into scholarships to support UO students.

Moffitt then described the effects of Covid-19 and university shutdown in March 2020, which included significant impacts to Housing, the Student Rec Center, the EMU, university child care centers, and parking revenues, to a total loss of almost $17 million. She outlined the steps the UO took to reduce expenditures, including freezes on hiring, pay action, and travel, voluntary pay reductions by senior leadership, limiting Services and Supplies expenditures, and the development of a Progressive Pay Reduction plan (PPR). Moffitt described the drop in student enrollment and associated decrease in undergraduate tuition revenue, as well as how the reduced number of first-year students will affect the E&G fund for the next 3-4 years. Finally, she shared how one-time cost savings and federal Covid-19 relief funds helped to mitigate E&G fund revenue losses for FY21.

The group discussed the impacts of freezing graduate student recruitment, how online classes affect the budget, and how numerous actions helped keep the university budget balanced but had serious impacts on operations.

**Adjournment**. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.