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

**Meeting Summary | January 27, 2023**

The 2022–2023 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in room 023 (Lease Crutcher Lewis) of the Erb Memorial Union at 8:15 a.m. on Friday, January 27, 2023. A remote option was available by request; three 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**: Molly Blancett (guest), Krista Borg, Jim Brooks, Deborah Butler (guest), Robin Clement, Renée Dorjahn, Sorin Dragoiu (guest, online), Brian Fox, Ellen Grant (guest), Rick Haught (guest), Luda Isakharov (online), Randy Kamphaus (guest), Heather Kingsley, Lauryn Lilly, Laura Lee McIntyre, Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Brad Morin, Cass Moseley, Lynn Nester (guest), Brady Nittmann (guest), Erick Njue, Abhijit Pandit (guest), Grant Schoonover, Sam Schwartz (guest), Kathie Stanley (online), Jessi Steward (guest), Julie Wren (guest), Kris Winter (co-chair), Laurie Woodward (guest), Ben Young.

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

**Introductions**. Co-chair Jamie Moffitt, senior vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer, welcomed everyone and invited people to introduce themselves. She also reminded TFAB members that the next few weeks would be extremely busy as the group’s meeting schedule intensifies and culminates with the recommendations memo drafting and review process.

**Technology Fee proposal**. Abhijit Pandit, vice president and chief information officer, provided an overview of the university’s tech fee, explaining that the fee is used for technology infrastructure, mission-critical software, and cyber security tools. He shared that the fee has only been increased twice since its inception and the proposed increases puts it back in line with consistent 3% inflationary increases. The main cost drivers for the proposed fee increase include inflation for both hardware and software as well as supply chain issues on some equipment. It was noted that current funding levels do not meet overall technology demands, particularly considering the university’s increasing dependency on technology. Pandit then discussed future plans to prioritize needs, including an inclusive governance structure, focus on critical issues, and retiring inefficient hardware. Pandit’s presentation is [available online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/updates).

The group discussed whether the increased tech fee proposal would be enough to cover costs considering inflationary pressures, if the increased fee would be used for primarily hardware and software, and how classroom technology updates are considered.

**Recreation Fee and Union Fee proposal**. Co-chair Kris Winter, interim vice president for student life, presented the 2023-24 proposal for two mandatory fees: the Recreation Fee (PE & Rec) and the Union Fee (EMU—Erb Memorial Union). She noted that the EMU and Department of Physical Education and Recreation are both auxiliaries, which means they have to cover their operating costs with revenue. Cost drivers are similar to what others at the UO are facing. Winter shared that each auxiliary has sources of revenue other than the fees: the recreation center receives revenue from sources such as youth camp and community memberships; the union has revenue from sources such as childcare services and space rental. However, she noted that those sources of revenue are currently lower than pre-Covid levels and, while they are trending back up, the revenue levels are hard to predict and it is unclear if they will return to pre-Covid levels.

Full details of the cost drivers, revenues, and proposed increased fees for the union and recreation center are [available online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/tuition2.uoregon.edu/files/2023-01/student-life-23-24-mandatory-fee-presentation-to-tfab.pdf).

The group discussed whether there is increased programming planned at the student union, changes in community and staff memberships at the recreation center, and the interaction between administratively controlled mandatory fees and the Incidental Fee (I-Fee), which is not an administratively-controlled mandatory fee.

**Ballmer Institute proposal**. Randy Kamphaus, acting executive director of the Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavioral Health, presented an overview of the institute’s new graduate microcredential program. He shared information on pricing considerations and efforts to keep the costs aligned with current UO offerings, noting that there is a single per-credit tuition rate for both residents and non-residents. The presentation is [available online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/updates).

The group discussed the difference between online learning and distance-delivered programs, potential plans to make the program asynchronous for broader national deployment, current enrollment levels, and how current students are supported by scholarships and district contributions.

**Graduate tuition**. J.P. Monroe**,** director of institutional research,provided historical data on graduate tuition increases for each graduate program between 2019-20 and 2022-23, including proposed increases for 2023-24. The document is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/sites/tuition2.uoregon.edu/files/2023-01/2023-24-grad-tuition-history.pdf).

The group discussed a number of programs, including those that adjusted rates so that residents and non-residents paid the same tuition, those that have held rates flat for a number of years, and those that have faced enrollment challenges and so have kept their rates low as a result.

**Undergraduate tuition**. Moffitt, along with Brian Fox, associate vice president for budget, financial analysis and data analysis, spent the remainder of the meeting facilitating a discussion about undergraduate tuition rates, using the tuition calculator as a guide. Moffitt and Fox encouraged the group to consider a number of different scenarios and factors, including inflation, enrollment, and varying levels of state appropriations.

The group considered how the Oregon economic forecast and Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB) could impact state appropriations, how the state’s funding formula works, current student application indicators, and how much of a deficit the university could conceivably withstand.

**Adjournment**. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.