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

**Meeting Summary | November 17, 2023**

The 2023–2024 Tuition and Fee Advisory Board (TFAB) of the University of Oregon met in room 072 of Prince Lucien Campbell (PLC) Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2023. A remote option was available by request; five 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**: Kersey Bars, Elliot Berkman (online), Krista Borg, Jim Brooks, Robin Clement, Renée Dorjahn, Sorin Dragoiu (guest), Brian Fox, Heather Gustafson (online), Jamie Moffitt (co-chair), JP Monroe, Finn O’Donnell, Laura Lee McIntyre (online), Finn O’Donnell, Jasmine Ramirez-Miranda, Kerlos Rizk, Hal Sadofsky, Kathie Stanley (online), Chloé Webster, Kris Winter (co-chair), Ben Young.

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

**Introductions**.Co-chair Kris Winter, interim vice president for student life, welcomed in-person and online participants and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

**Long-term projections**. Jamie Moffitt, senior vice president for finance and administration and chief financial officer, provided the group with an overview of the UO’s long-term projections for the Education and General Fund, information which was shared with the Board of Trustees (UO) in September 2023. Moffitt explained that the projections include fifteen different scenarios with various assumptions related to enrollment, state appropriation, tuition rate increases, and inflation levels. She also explained that the number of tenure track faculty at the university dropped over the last few years and that all of the scenarios assume that the university is rehiring to previous levels. She noted that it has been harder to project services and supplies (S&S) expenses within the budget because people’s travel habits have changed since Covid.

The group discussed the assumptions inherent in different base case, downside, and upside scenarios, as well as the need to track the fund balance closely and monitor the weeks of operating expenses on hand.

The presentation shared by Moffitt is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/bot-lt-projections-aug-2023).

**Primer on financial aid**. Jim Brooks, senior associate vice president for student services and enrollment management, and director of student financial aid and scholarships, provided an overview of financial aid at the university. He shared the UO cost of attendance for residents and non-residents, need-based and merit-based financial aid options, the percentage of UO students that receive some kind of student aid, and the work the university is doing to reduce the average debt of graduating classes each year.

The group discussed changes in scholarship funding, the meaning of unfunded mandates, upcoming changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the resulting potential impacts.

The slides presented by Brooks are available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/tfab-financial-aid-primernov-2023).

**Cost drivers**. Brian Fox, associate vice president for budget, financial analysis, and data analytics, provided an overview of updated cost driver data for meeting participants. He explained that the university is currently in negotiations with labor groups, and therefore, compensation costs are as yet unknown for the coming fiscal year. For this reason, compensation costs were estimated largely based on historical trends, and the cost drivers worksheet includes an analysis of how much each 1% increase in compensation levels, across all employee groups, would add to the cost drivers. Moffitt shared that the updated cost drivers would be incorporated into the tuition calculator to be used by TFAB members in winter term. Information on the updated cost drivers is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/cost-drivers-updated-nov-2023).

**Cost management plan**. Moffitt discussed a cost management overview document with the group. The document details the plan for how the governing board and the UO administration are managing costs on an ongoing basis. She explained that the university monitors costs continuously, with the Board of Trustees reviewing projected expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year annually, reviewing financial projections against actual spending rates quarterly, and receiving benchmarking information for staffing levels and labor costs. The cost management plan is available [online](https://tuition.uoregon.edu/cost-management-plan17nov2023).

**Planning for student forum on tuition**. Winter provided an overview of the planned January student tuition forum, explaining that it is generally co-hosted by TFAB and the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO). She noted that the purpose is for TFAB members to receive student input on issues around tuition, and for students to learn more about the UO budget process regarding tuition and fees. The group discussed information that should be shared with forum participants, including cost drivers, state appropriations, and efforts the UO is making to increase the legislative support for the Public University Support Fund (PUSF). They also discussed the format of the forum and the need to bring in a wider student audience in addition to students affiliated with ASUO. Finally, the group noted the importance of emphasizing what is done with the student input gathered at the forum.

**Adjournment**. The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.