

Tuition and Fee Advisory Committee Meeting

February 14, 2020
11:00AM-1:00PM
Hamersly Library 301A

Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Karaman at 11:00AM. The following committee members were present:

Camarie Moreno
Dr. Ana Karaman
Andy McDonald
Julieanne Ohashi-Sides
Will Lucas
Marilyn Maldonado-Dominguez
Hamid Bahari-Kashami
Hunter Weeks
Becka Morgan
Erik Morgan
Monica Cerda-Ortiz
Claudia Mendez.

The following individuals were also present:

President Rex Fuller
Lacey Davis
Gabe Dougherty
Dona Vasas

2. Update from President Fuller

- President Fuller thanked the committee for the work they are doing. He also shared an update via the February 19th Board of Trustees docket and explained that WOU's theme for the upcoming meeting is Affordability and Access.
- Andy McDonald asked about which areas would be impacted the most by not increasing tuition by more than 5% and President Fuller responded with minimizing the number of class sections that have low enrollment, reducing supplies and services, and utilizing salary savings.
- Will Lucas shared that stacking up degree requirements is challenging for students.

- Erik Morgan asked about the Board's fund balance target of 10-12% and if that can happen at the same time as a tuition increase less than 5%. Dr. Fuller believes that they can.
- The university's fund balance target used to be 15%, but now is 10-12%.
- Currently a budget for FY21 is being built on a 2.5% enrollment decline, but if actual enrollment comes in higher, there will be a benefit to the budget equation in the fall for retention, new markets, and transfer students.
- Dr. Karaman discussed the Tuition and Fees Projection Model.
- President Fuller explained that the committee may get new direction from the Board of Trustees when they meet on February 19th, which can change the model.

3. Emergency Loan Program Overview

Dona Vasas provided an overview of the Emergency Loan Program. This program is for students experiencing unexpected hardships outside of their tuition and fees costs. Some examples of situations that receive support include: airfare to attend an out-of-state funeral, help covering rent after an eviction notice, or if a roommate unexpectedly moves and a student needs help covering rent.

4. Average WOU Student Loan Debt

Camarie Moreno reported that they will have this ready at the next meeting.

5. Tuition & Fee Discussion

The committee discussed potential increases to resident undergraduate tuition ranging from a \$5/credit (2.84%) to an \$8/credit (4.55%) increase. The committee discussed the impact that has on the university and the potential to use reserves, as well as the impact on students and affordability. They discussed the difficulty in balancing keeping the price of college affordable, while also having generating enough revenue to keep high quality education and services. Ultimately the committee was split between a rate of \$182/credit and \$184/credit, and decided to take both numbers to the upcoming tabling event to see how students at-large felt about the increases.

Additionally, the committee discussed increasing the health service fee to \$145/term (from \$139/term). The committee members all favored this.

6. Setting Open Hearings

The committee set two tabling sessions for February 25th and February 26th from 11:00AM-1:00PM in the Werner University Center to gather student feedback on a \$4 v. \$6 increase in tuition (making the resident undergraduate rate \$182 or \$184 per credit) and the \$6 increase in the health service fee (making the health service fee \$145 per term).

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM.