

## MINUTES

### Agenda

1. Discuss the tuition survey results from the link sent out November 17.
2. Work on planning for the charges from the Provost:
  - a. Graduate School's policies on centrally funded support for graduate student assistantships and fellowships, in collaboration with the Graduate School: The Grad School has convened a small group to talk about graduate funding. The suggestion was to add one member from UBC to join that discussion.
  - b. Engage with the Budget Office, colleges, and academic units in a review of unit budget practices, with particular attention to potential revisions to the Corvallis campus Shared Responsibility Budget Model. We thought forming one small group to participate in this process might be a path forward.
  - c. Consider the tuition pricing policies of the university as a whole, assessing their soundness and alignment across residency categories, programs and modalities of delivery. Here, we thought that one small workgroup (or two small groups if there are a lot of volunteers) would work. The intent in keeping each group small is to allow participation and conversation by student, faculty, and staff members easily.
3. Discussion of current tuition structures (if there is time). See meeting materials document for an overview of tuition practices and comparisons of tuition rates. This is a draft and a first attempt to capture some of the important information we may want as the discussion proceeds.
4. Other questions or topics for future meetings?
5. Adjourn

### Committee Members Present

Allison Hurst, Sherm Bloomer, Jackie Thorsness, Edgar Rodriguez, Staci Simonich, Alison Johnston, John Gremmels, Deja Preusser, Mackenzie Thibault, Joanna DeMeyer, Lisa Gaines, Amy Bourne, Michaela Canete, Jessica Dupont, David Park

### Committee Members Absent

Kelly Sparks, Taha Elewfati, Jon Boeckenstedt, Javier Nieto

### University Staff Present

Nicole Dolan, Laurie Henry

### 1. Tuition Survey Results

Sherm Bloomer, Associate Vice President for Budget and Resource Planning discussed the results of an anonymous tuition survey sent to the committee on November 17. Attached to the survey was a one-page summary titled *Tuition Structure and Context*<sup>1</sup> to aid in the respondent's decision process. The survey was used to capture a sense of how the group felt about tuition increases relative to what tuition pays for, including inflationary costs (2.7%), anticipated costs, and strategic costs. 12 committee members participated in the survey.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information see *Tuition Structure and Context* handout at:

[https://fa.oregonstate.edu/sites/fa.oregonstate.edu/files/tuition\\_structure\\_and\\_context.pdf](https://fa.oregonstate.edu/sites/fa.oregonstate.edu/files/tuition_structure_and_context.pdf)

Survey results:

- 2.7% inflation increase? 11 yes, 1 no
- .7% mandatory increase? 10 yes, 2 no
- .6% strategic increase? 3 yes, 9 no
- For “no” responses what would be the recommended strategy:
  - 1 – cut expenses proportionally, 3 – cut expenses in a targeted way, 3 – don’t make the strategic investments, 2 – other, and 1 prefer not to answer.
- All 12 respondents had a chance to read the tuition context page prior to taking the survey.

The survey was also sent to the Student Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) on Nov 13. 9 responses were received in total.

Nicole Dolan, Director of Capital Budgeting shared the SBAC survey results with the committee.

- 2.7% inflation increase? 4 yes, 3 no, 2 prefer not to answer
- .7% mandatory increase? 9 yes, 0 no, 0 prefer not to answer
- .6% strategic increase? 4 yes, 4 no, 1 prefer not to answer
- For no responses what would be recommended strategy:
  - 2 – Cut expenses proportionally, 1 – don’t make the strategic investments, and 3 prefer not to answer.
- 8 of the 9 respondents had a chance to read the tuition context page prior to taking the survey.

Alison Johnston, Associate Professor, School of Public Policy asked for an update regarding Ecampus tuition compared to on campus nonresident students and the difference in cost of tuition.

- Jessica Dupont, Executive Director, Market Development and Student Experience, Ecampus; provided background in Ecampus growth and how students are coded to track whether Ecampus students are primarily taking courses online or on campus. There was no notable increase in campus students switching to Ecampus. True distant students are primarily taking Ecampus courses. Ecampus is still anticipating good growth.
- When the economy is bad, trends in adult learners returning to school tends to increase significantly.

David Park, Associated Students of OSU informed the committee that ASOSU is looking at drafting a resolution regarding a tuition freeze and/or tuition reduction.

**Action item:** Bloomer proposed working up a projection based on the tuition survey results (2.7% plus .7%) and also a projection with a tuition freeze as context for discussion during the next UBC meeting on Dec 4.

## 2. Planning for the charges from the Provost

Bloomer asked for volunteers to join small working groups to discuss the following:

- a. Graduate School’s policies on centrally funded support for graduate student assistantships and fellowships, in collaboration with the Graduate School.  
*Committee volunteers:* Sherm Bloomer (ex officio)
- b. Engage with the Budget Office, colleges, and academic units in a review of unit budget practices, with particular attention to potential revisions to the Corvallis campus Shared Responsibility Budget Model.

*Committee volunteers:* Jackie Thorsness, Allison Hurst, Alison Johnston, John Gremmels

- c. Consider the tuition pricing policies of the university as a whole, assessing their soundness and alignment across residency categories, programs and modalities of delivery.

*Committee volunteers:* Jessica Dupont, David Park, Allison Hurst, Michaela Canete

### 3. Discussion of current tuition structures

*Follow up:* Committee agreed to take time to review materials on the overview of tuition practices and comparisons of tuition rates to discuss during next meeting.

*Action item:* Bloomer to circulate questions before next meeting.

### 4. Other questions or topics for future meetings?

- Is the percentage of tuition dollars paid toward one major program the same as tuition dollars paid towards another major program (i.e. Psychology, Engineering)? Does part of the tuition paid for one major program go towards other major programs?
  - All tuition is collected centrally and then allocated to units based on the average of student credit hours and degrees awarded for the past 3 years. The allocations are not necessarily the same on a per major basis. Colleges that have differential tuition also receive the differential allocation.
- Should the tuition survey be distributed more broadly to the student-body? Several committee members agreed distributing the tuition survey out more broadly to the student body would provide valuable student input.
- Committee discussed offering tuition forums in the same structure as budget conversations.
- Michaela Canete, Associated Students of OSU; Student Budget Advisory Council shared with the committee that ASOSU is looking at hosting a student-wide event regarding COVID-19, the impact on tuition and how the university has responded to it. This may include a budget conversation and what the future of tuition might look like.

### 5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m. by Sherm Bloomer. Next meeting will be held December 4, 2020 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.