



## ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

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WOU Board of Trustees,

We would like to first apologize for not being present during this important discussion of the board. Unfortunately, our class schedules do not allow for us to attend this meeting today.

Several student members of ASWOU have met over the past two terms to discuss resident undergraduate tuition rates here at Western Oregon University. During this process, Vice President Yahnke has provided us with Fiscal Year Operating Budget booklets, detailed printouts of tuition trends, and in-depth conversation about funding sources and expectations. It has been clear to us that Vice President Yahnke values student input and encourages understanding as to how tuition decisions are made. We realize that tuition directly supports the day to day operations of this fine university, and that part of our responsibility as students is to ensure that the best interests of Western Oregon University and its students are at the heart of every decision made. For this reason, we also take the discussion of tuition very seriously.

Throughout the Tuition Advisory Committee's meeting process, Vice President Yahnke has informed us of several potential rises in tuition. The initial proposal of a 4% increase to non-promise resident and a 5% increase to the Western Promise tuition rates was generally accepted by the committee due to our understanding of the reasons for such increases.

We, as students, understand that any increase to tuition may have an undesirable effect on all students at Western, especially those from tight financial situations. However, as cost of living continues to increase and inflation raises expenses annually, we do not wish to see a significant decrease in services offered at this institution in order to accomplish the 0% tuition increase students would desire most.

We, as a committee, felt that the 4% and 5% proposed increases would be manageable enough by our students while ensuring that our institution of choice would not be sacrificing elements essential to our overall education.

At a subsequent meeting, a new proposal was brought before the committee with an increase of 2-4% to the tuition rates. Seeing as to how this increase would at worst be what we had previously agreed to, we were all in favor of this proposal. Vice President Yahnke shared with us some of the financial uncertainty that could impact the proposal, effectively making it closer to the 4% instead of the 2%, such as the kicker kicking and state funding that will not be decided until later in the year.

While a 2% increase to tuition would be ideal for all Western students, as long as the actual increase is within the 2-4% range, we, as students, feel that this increase is necessary to ensure all the services we desire and expect as students are kept while maintaining the affordability level of a degree at Western Oregon University.

Again, we apologize for the lack of physical representation during this very important board meeting and discussion. Thank you all for you dedication and service to this institution that has and will forever change the lives of all those who are associated with it.



Corbin Garner  
ASWOU President



Kellon Hughes  
ASWOU Vice President



Jenesa Ross  
ASWOU Judicial Administrator