

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the course of winter term, we have participated in the Tuition Advisory Committee. It has been an interesting and enlightening process for us all. During this term we have been learning about university finances and have gained a new understanding about the financial behind-the-scenes of our institution. This understanding, we believe, is unique because many students do not have the desire or time to learn. Eric Yanke took the time to reach out to students by visiting organizations of student leaders such as the Residence Hall Association General Assembly and the Associated Students of Western Oregon University Senate. Both organizations gave their opinion and feedback, much of which mirrored the opinions of the students on the committee.

Overall, the committee felt the increase in tuition was appropriate. We considered the rising cost of living, which affects salaries, but also the services and supplies purchased by the university, which are also a rising cost, a decrease in enrollment, and the collective bargaining work of the union of professors here on campus. All of the expenditures seemed rational and acceptable. Considering all of this, the student members of the Tuition Advisory Committee believe that this increase in cost is acceptable and affordable to students.

Our duties as students on the Tuition Advisory Committee were to learn about the budget of Western Oregon University and add our input. Ultimately, this task was as important as it was difficult. In order to judge the proposed tuition rates, it was necessary to consider many points of view. Many of our students face financial hardships that make college difficult to afford. However, in spite of the rise in tuition, the Students of the Tuition Advisory Committee firmly believe that this tuition is affordable for student and allows us to stay competitive among other State Universities and other similar universities in our region.

Looking towards the future, the students of the Tuition Advisory Committee feel trepidation when considering the rising cost associated with the Public Employment Retirement System. The Tuition Advisory Committee was presented with projections and scenarios that show 15-20% increases to the cost of tuition. It is our firm belief that this scenario would cause students to drastically reconsider their enrollment at Western Oregon University.

The students of the tuition advisory committee would like to commend all those whose work benefits the students at Western Oregon University, especially those who worked on the budget. Their unheralded work is vital to operations and the consideration for the lives of the students enrolled at WOU made our job much easier.

Signed,

BillyAnn Stemple
RHA Executive Board Member



Carter Craig
IFC Member

