



## Western Oregon University

### Tuition Advisory Committee

March 21, 2017

Werner University Center, Ochoco Room

#### MINUTES

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Present: Sam Dunaway, Natalie Legras, Kelsee Martin, Reina Morgan (Assistant), Cynthia Oliveras, Eric Yahnke (Vice President for Finance and Administration)

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VP Yahnke asked how to get more students to know about the proposed tuition rates. Kelsee suggested that students might be more prone to participate in an online questionnaire rather than coming to a meeting in person. VP Yahnke expressed concern about presenting information in that way without being able to provide context and have an open dialogue about it to answer questions and clarify things.

Natalie suggested giving context for what the extra money is going to so students can see how it will be used. VP Yahnke shared that salary and benefits are the biggest expenses. This is partially due to the minimum wage increase, sick leave law, and PERS increases. He also shared that we use CUPA HR surveys to evaluate compare faculty salaries to other schools. In some disciplines we are higher than average and in other areas we are lower. We tried to correct that during the last bargaining session.

VP Yahnke explained that we are in a hard place because the tuition rates have to be decided at a time when we won't yet know what funding we will be getting from the state. Additionally, bargaining is happening at the same time and we won't know the outcome of that. He shared that we are looking at about a 10% structural deficit and that we will take a strategic look at where to take that money from in a way that minimally impacts the students.

The Finance and Administration subcommittee of the Board of Trustees meets on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm in HL 205. Tuition Advisory Committee members are encouraged to attend and take part in the portion of the discussion that relates to tuition rates. Students are also welcome to attend the full board meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-6pm in the WUC Columbia Room. The Tuition Advisory Committee has been asked to write a letter that will be presented at this board meeting. The letters from the past two years can be viewed on the [website](#).