



Western Oregon University

Tuition Advisory Committee

November 28th, 2016 from 8-9am

President's Conference Room

MINUTES

Present: Carter Craig, Javier Garcia, Riley Hawken, Natalie Legras, Reina Morgan (Assistant), BillyAnn Stemple, Shelby Worthing, Eric Yahnke (Vice President for Finance and Administration)

VP Yahnke shared that we could be facing substantial increases to tuition next year. We need to get students informed so they can talk to the legislators to get more funding for higher education so not as much money has to come out of student pockets. The [budget book](#) was given to everyone who didn't receive one last week.

Page 32 shows the fund balance (what's left after the bills after all expenses are paid). The Board requires that we maintain a 10-20% fund balance with 15% as the goal. Page 83 shows the 10 year projection. You can see how it changes next year due to the PERS rate increase. Page 11 is a history of state appropriations. It is unknown what it will be for next year so it's hard to plan. Page 12 shows state appropriations based on outcomes and enrollment. This is gradually changing to be more outcomes based and less based on enrollment.

Page 14 has the history of enrollment. We are on a downhill slope. Page 17 has our rates and fees. When we have lower enrollment each student ends up having to pay more for fees because we have the same total cost being spread out across fewer students. Page 18 shows remissions, which is a form of financial aid (like scholarships) given out by the university. Remissions are really critical for students since about 60 cents out of every dollar comes from students. It used to be flipped with the state paying more than students did. WOU's increase will be slightly higher than other schools due to the four cohorts of students we have with a tuition promise rate that won't see an increase, causing our increase to be spread out across fewer students.

VP Yahnke asked how we can get the message out to more students. Carter suggested having an IFC budget party with food and prizes. We can have a signup sheet for students to go talk to the legislators, or we can invite legislators to come talk at WOU. It would be really helpful to get a group of students to show up and testify, write a letter, or put together a petition. There is a big

concern that if we have to raise tuition too much new students might not come to WOU and some current students may choose to stop attending WOU.

Natalie recommended that we send something out that says “look what’s going to happen” to get it on their radar and let them know how to get involved. Shelby suggested that we frame the increase multiple different ways to help students see how it will impact them. Some suggestions were number of extra hours of work that it would take students to pay for the increase, extra amount of interest on student loans, the extra cost per credit, and the extra cost for a full class load. Other ideas were to meet in the Willamette room and request a student liaison from every area, draft a letter that can be given to students as a template to send to legislators, and to have leaders of different groups select students to be representatives on the issue.

Shelby pointed out that things like the gym, housing, events, and athletics draw students here and differentiate us from the community colleges, but those things are also very costly. Natalie asked about the graduate rates. Eric will bring numbers for graduation and retention next time. Natalie shared that LBCC has a really great scheduling/registration program. She will show it to Eric sometime after the meeting. Shelby added that a four year degree becomes a five year degree when it’s difficult to plan out your schedule. This is something that also came up during the strategic planning town hall for students. Shelby also shared that it would be helpful to have at least one advisor in each department or division that has advising as their sole job so that students can get really good quality advising from people who are very knowledgeable in it. Additionally it would be nice to have more study areas around campus. When the psychology students do studies they take up all of the rooms in the library and it doesn’t leave anywhere for other students to study. Natalie added that it would be nice to have open areas with tables in each department/division where students can work on assignments with someone on staff to help out as students have questions on their homework (like the math center).

A doodle was sent out to schedule a meeting time for Winter term. Those meetings will be announced shortly.