

Western Oregon University

Tuition Advisory Committee

February 19th, 2015 from 9-10am

President's Conference Room

MINUTES

Present: Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Yahnke, Carter Craig, BillyAnn Stempel, Reina Morgan

VP Yahnke brought an updated tuition and fees comparison table with estimated rate increases for each of Oregon's public universities. The estimated increases to the other universities are as follows: 4.7% for University of Oregon, 2% for Oregon State University, and about 3% for Portland State University, Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, and Southern Oregon University. Western is anticipating an increase of 3% to the regular rate with a 5% increase to the Promise rate for 2016. The tuition for promise rates for prior years is locked, so the only increase those students will see is in fees. This puts the composite increase for WOU at 2.325%.

The higher increase to the promise rate is necessary in part due to the need to anticipate the PERS increase coming in 2018 since this rate will remain fixed through that time.

University rate increases of 3% or more have to be reported to the legislature and increases of 5% or more have to be reported to HECC with an explanation as to why the increase is necessary.

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) rate is 150% of the Oregon resident rate and is available to students from a number of participating states.

Carter said he thinks that WOU is still competitive even with one of the highest rates out of the Oregon public universities because of things like the environment and small class sizes that to him make the higher cost worth it. Southern Oregon University and Eastern Oregon University are able to keep rates lower due to downsizing that occurred as the result of retrenchment.

For planning purposes WOU will be projecting enrollment to stay constant, though we may need to anticipate a slight decrease. Shannon asked why enrollment is down and VP Yahnke explained that some reasons are the economy (which causes a lot of people to go into the workforce rather than continue their education), less students graduating from high school, competitive rates at other schools, and the option of having free community college.

Next week VP Yahnke will be presenting to external groups rather than holding the normal weekly meeting. Those details are as follows:

ASWOU Senate

February 24th at 6pm

Calapooia Room, WUC

RHA General Assembly

February 24th at 7:15pm

Mt. Jefferson Room, Valsetz