

Western Oregon University

Tuition Advisory Committee

March 7th, 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 shared that the rates proposed to the Board at the March Planning Session will be 5% for the promise rate and 3% for the regular rate. These will be do-not-exceed rates that will be lower if there is any way to do so. BillyAnn shared that the Housing and Dining Advisory Committee (HDAC) is proposing a 2% rate increase. Her impression was that no one in the RHA meeting had significant concerns about any of the proposed increases.

The composite rate unweighted for WOU is less than 2%. When weighted to take into consideration how many students are in each cohort it could possibly be slightly higher than 2%, but not substantially.

Next biennium there is uncertainty about state funding. Department of Administrative Services and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission have both given the schools possible scenarios and have asked what would have to be done to operate with that funding level. We have put together our own scenarios as well for a total of 11 scenarios, some of which would require increases above 20%. The actual amount that would need to come from students would depend on how much we end up receiving from the state which has yet to be determined.

For these scenarios we didn't propose any cuts because we are so lean as is. It is most likely that the amount of funding received from the state won't be at either end of the spectrum and instead will fall in the middle range with rate increases considerably less than 20%, but we need students motivated to talk to the legislators to keep drastic increases from happening. Student voices are the strongest.

The board planning session where tuition rates for the coming year will be discussed is March 10th and 11th. The proposal letter from the committee is needed in the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration by March 9th.

This is the last Tuition Advisory Committee meeting for this school year, but if committee members have additional questions or would like to further discuss any of these issues they are welcome to set up an appointment with VP Yahnke.