

Tuition Advisory Council
Monday, March 16, 2020

Council Members (✓ indicates the member was present)

- Stephen Battaglia – Student
- ✓ Katie Carr – Student
- Leslie Eldridge – Faculty Member
- Sarah Guenther – Student
- Johanna Pardo – Student
- Dennis Slattery – Faculty Member
- ✓ Matt Stillman – Administrator
- ✓ Susan Walsh – (Chair) Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Guests Present

Greg Perkinson, Josh Lovern, Neil Woolf

The meeting started at 1:35pm.

Walsh discussed the timeline of when the Council's recommendation would be needed and reminded Council members of the HECC rules relating to tuition increases: an increase below 3% requires no further action or oversight by the HECC, an increase between 3% and 4.99% requires a report sent to the HECC, and an increase of 5% or above means going before the HECC. She suggested that it might be worthwhile to start by looking at what an increase of 4.99% would look like.

Lovern mentioned that a question was raised at last week's meeting relating to an apparent decline predicted in graduate enrollment. He said he dug into the data and enrollments through Academic Partnerships have reached a plateau for now and other graduate enrollments appear likely to be down slightly.

Perkinson said he would like to make sure that any student fee increases don't combine with potential tuition increases to make the total go above 5%. He said he would prefer to stay below 5%. He said he would like to have an idea of the current thinking of the Council.

Lovern said he could use a calculation of the total cost of attendance to help avoid going over a 5% increase. He described how the total cost of attendance is calculated. Woolf mentioned that total cost of attendance includes tuition, fees, room and board, books, and other costs. He said this total cost minus expected family contribution is used to help understand the total cost to different students. Lovern pointed out that the total cost of attendance includes mandatory enrollment fees but not incidental fees. Carr asked if it looks like other fees are likely to be increased this year. Lovern said the building fee went up last year and it is not likely to be

increased, but the health center fee will likely increase. He said he would put together a presentation with those numbers.

Walsh asked if the Council members present were comfortable with the idea of having a tuition increase not to exceed 4.99%. Carr said she is.

Woolf asked about timing and mentioned that it may be helpful before deciding on a tuition rate to have an understanding of what tuition would need to do to help cover potential losses from COVID-19. Walsh said we just don't know at this point. Lovern said the Budget office has been asked to model potential scenarios. Walsh said we don't know what the state will be doing about this to help the universities. Lovern added that there may be funding available through FEMA to help offset losses. Walsh said the Board of Trustees may want to see several scenarios with different tuition recommendations.

Carr asked if the cost of attendance gets adjusted yearly based on external variables, or if it just reflects changes in tuition and fees. Woolf said that calculation takes a lot of changing variables into account. Lovern said what gets sent to the HECC isn't the full cost of attendance, just the mandatory fees and tuition.

Walsh said things are very fluid right now.

The meeting ended at 2:00pm.