

**Tuition Advisory Council**  
Wednesday, May 6, 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**

Linda Schott, Greg Perkinson, Neil Woolf, Josh Lovern

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The meeting started at 1:33pm.

Walsh mentioned that she sent a draft memo with the Council's recommendation for 2020-21 tuition last night to President Schott and included the Council members on the email. She said she received a response from Slattery that he will not be able to attend today's meeting, but he supports the memo as written, without any edits or additions. He said it reflected the conversation and decision accurately. Walsh said she would like to check in to make sure other Council members are comfortable with the memo sent to the President, which allows her some flexibility within a range, but recommends staying below an overall increase of 5%.

Eldridge said she just read the memo and it looks good. She said it doesn't go into too much detail, but that makes sense. Walsh agreed that the memo does not go into great detail but allows President Schott some latitude. She added that President Schott is expected to join this meeting briefly, and she may use that opportunity to ask for more details if she would like. Stillman said he likes the memo. He said he was going to suggest a couple finer points but he agrees that being generic at this phase makes sense. Carr said she read the email and memo yesterday and she thinks it looks good.

[Pardo joined]

Guenther said she read through it too and thinks it reflects what the Council talked about. She said she did notice one place where the memo says "February" instead of "April." Walsh said that's just an editing mistake, which will be fixed, and thanked Guenther for catching it.

Perkinson asked whether the Council needs to refer to both a tuition and a fee recommendation. He said it seems to him that a fee recommendation is broader than what is

mentioned in current memo. Walsh said that last year her letter to President Schott dealt just with tuition, but we can do it differently this year, this is just a draft created to give us something to work off of today. Perkinson said one option would be to keep the memo as is and just refer to an attachment with additional detail. Walsh said that sounds fine, she would be happy to format it however people prefer.

## **OTHER FEES AND RATES**

Lovern said there are additional rates for the Council to consider, including the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) online rate, the online MBA and MEd rates, and a differential rate for Military Science. He said the WUE online rate has historically been fixed at the same rate as the resident online rate plus delivery fee, rather than there being WUE-specific rate for online. He said the proposal under consideration is to change it so that the WUE online rate is the regular WUE rate plus the online delivery fee. He said under the current proposal this rate change would not apply to current students, so WUE students who started online last year or before would continue to have the rate calculated as it currently is. Stillman asked if the intention is to do the same thing with students from American Samoa. Lovern said he believes this is correct, but he isn't sure about their WUE status. Walsh said they are currently being treated for these purposes like WUE students, and there is a belief that the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) may allow American Samoa into WUE. For now they receive the same deal as WUE students, but technically it's a different "rate" because they are not officially WUE students. Eldridge asked about the difference between WUE online and WUE in-person. Stillman said the WUE rate for in-person is pegged at 1.5 times the resident tuition rate, so the current proposal would be to do the same with the online rate. Eldridge asked if what's proposed is consistent with other institutions in the state. Stillman said he looked for comparisons and there is zero consistency in how this is handled across the state. Walsh said the institutions are very different; some have many more online courses and students than others. Eldridge said she is curious how much the \$110 per SCH will impact how competitive our rates will be. Woolf said SOU has not actually been advertising that WUE students have been getting the same rate as residents for online, so WUE students may not know until they get their bill that they've been paying a lower rate than they might have expected given their WUE status.

[Lovern displayed a chart showing tuition and mandatory fees for the Oregon Public Universities and some California State University competitors] Lovern said that the California State University system basically keeps their tuition rate steady but adds on fees per institution.

Guenther/Pardo moved to recommend approving the proposed change to the WUE online rate; the motion passed, 5Y/0N/1A (Stillman said he would abstain because he was too closely connected with this proposal).

## ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS ONLINE MBA AND MSED

Lovern said the proposal under consideration for the Academic Partnerships online MBA rate is to keep the rate basically flat. He displayed a slide with the tuition rate and completion time for the online MBA at SOU compared to other competitors. Walsh gave a brief overview of the partnership, explaining that Academic Partnerships handles the marketing, recruitment, and application process, and they receive 50% of the tuition. She said they are able to scale it in a way we wouldn't be able to do alone. She said they look at market share and price point and together we find the sweet spot for setting tuition. She said this degree tends to appeal to adult learners, and is geared toward people with jobs, kids, and other responsibilities. She said we separate it from other graduate degrees because it's a unique program, different from our other programs that cater to more traditional students. Pardo noted that Eastern Oregon University's completion time is not listed on the slide. Lovern said the proposal under consideration today would keep the Academic Partnerships online MBA rate at \$430 per credit hour. Walsh asked if this means basically exempting this degree from the increases recommended for other graduate degrees. Lovern said yes. Stillman said the Academic Partnerships degrees really are different from the other graduate programs so it makes sense that they have their own rates.

Lovern said it may be easiest to vote on the table of rates (copied below).

	2019-20		2020-21		FY21		
	Current	Proposed	Difference	Difference Per	Difference Per	Annual	
Undergraduate Tuition Rate per SCH	Res: 10.0%	Res: 4.99%	Difference	Term @ 15 SCH	AY @ 45 SCH	Tuition Cost	
	Non-Res: 5.0%	Non-Res: 4.99%	Per SCH				
01-WUE SCH	\$284	\$297	\$13	\$195	\$585	\$13,365	
02-UG Resident SCH (incl. EXRES)	\$189	\$198	\$9	\$135	\$405	\$8,910	
02.2-UG JackJo Pledge	\$121	\$127	\$6	\$90	\$270	\$5,715	
03-UG Non Resident SCH	\$552	\$580	\$28	\$420	\$1,260	\$26,100	
04.1-UG Online SCH RES	\$189	\$198	\$9	\$135	\$405	\$8,910	
04.2-UG Online SCH NON-RES	\$189	\$198	\$9	\$135	\$405	\$8,910	
04.3-UG Online SCH WUE	\$189	\$198	\$9	\$135	\$405	\$8,910	
<b>Graduate Tuition Rate per SCH</b>		<b>Res: 4.99%</b>					
		<b>Non-Res: 4.99%</b>					
05-GR Resident SCH (incl. EXRES)	\$473	\$497	\$24	\$288	\$864	\$17,028	
06-GR Non Resident SCH	\$565	\$593	\$28	\$336	\$1,008	\$20,340	
07.0-GR AP MBA Online SCH	\$430	\$430	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,480	
07.1-GR Online SCH RES	\$473	\$497	\$24	\$288	\$864	\$17,028	
07.2-GR Online SCH NON-RES	\$473	\$497	\$24	\$288	\$864	\$17,028	
07.3-GR AP MS.Ed Online SCH	\$369	\$369	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,284	
08-GR - MEDU SCH	\$406	\$426	\$20	\$240	\$720	\$14,616	
<b>Other Categories Tuition Rate per SCH</b>		<b>4.99%</b>					
09-Staff	\$56	\$59	\$5	\$75	\$225	\$2,520	
10-Waived Tuition SCH	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
11-Course Based Tuition SCH	\$106	\$111	\$5	\$75	\$225	\$4,770	
12-Adv Southern Credit SCH	\$47	\$49	\$2	\$30	\$90	\$2,115	
13-Early Entry Credit SCH	\$175	\$184	\$8	\$120	\$360	\$7,875	

Walsh said it looks like the proposal is to recommend increasing graduate tuition rates by 4.99%, but exclude the Academic Partnerships MBA online and MEd online (as highlighted in yellow in the table above).

Lovern explained the staff rate mentioned in the table, which is the rate paid by students who are or are qualified members of the family of staff of the university. Stillman said that “Waived Tuition” refers to courses that by design do not have tuition or fees assessed. Lovorn explained that “Course Based Tuition” refers to cases where the course itself has a different fee outside the regular SCH pieces.

Walsh said it appears that the proposal under consideration is to recommend staying flat at the two highlighted Academic Partnerships online graduate programs, and increase other rates by no more than 4.99% as previously discussed.

Pardo/Guenther moved to recommend approving the table of rates as a whole; the motion passed, 6Y/0N/0A.

#### **MILITARY SCIENCE DIFFERENTIAL TUITION RATE**

Lovern said the Military Science program is asking for a differential tuition rate of \$10 per SCH. He said this would replace all of the program’s course fees, and it relates to the fact that ROTC was told from a federal standpoint that they could no longer charge course fees, apparently because some schools may have been abusing that. Lovorn said this money is used for things like training equipment, etc. He said Major Timmons put together a proposal, which was passed through Provost Walsh and is now coming to the Council for a recommendation. Walsh said in the future there will likely be a better process. She said she thinks things like this need a more thorough discussion before coming to her and then being presented to the Council, but she said she’s fine with this particular recommendation. Pardo asked if the differential tuition rate is the same as the fees they were already charging. Lovorn said he doesn’t have a full list of the course fees, but he would assume that the program is trying to maintain parity. Walsh said that’s a good question and said she agrees with Lovorn’s answer.

Eldridge/Carr moved to recommend approving the \$10 per SCH Military Science differential tuition rate; the motion passed, 6Y/0N/0A.

#### **PRESIDENT SCHOTT**

President Schott joined the meeting and said she will have to be brief because she has another meeting to join very shortly with some members of the Board of Trustees. She thanked the Council members for their work on tuition rates and fees. She said she knows it’s a lot to process and a weighty responsibility. She asked if the Council has any guidance not included in the written memo; for example, if the Council is okay with a tuition increase up to 4.99% but would really prefer something lower. She asked Council members what is their sense of where students would be at an increase of 4.99% versus 3% or something like that. Pardo said she

would say students understand about inflation and that costs continue to increase for the university. She said students also understand that the university is facing difficult choices and don't want to see their school fail or not be able to remain competitive. She said she thinks the recommendation made is the right decision. Schott said her fear is that this year, with everybody hurting so much economically, even 4.99% might feel high to students and their families. She said she's just asking for the Council's input, she's got to really work through the pro forma to see how big a difference it makes. Walsh said she thinks the Council's recommendation is really to give President Schott the green light to go with whatever she feels comfortable with in the specified range, what she thinks students and their families can stand to bear. Guenther said she agrees. She said she also agrees that students don't want to see this institution fail, so they would definitely be okay with a 4.99% increase. Schott said she knows the university is going to have to make reductions and she wonders if a few more reductions is going to cause the institution to fail when weighed against what might sway more students to want to come here or stay here. She said she appreciates the flexibility the Council has provided her with their recommendation, and definitely appreciates the Council's concerns about keeping the institution sustainable. She thanked the Council very much.

## **WRAPPING UP**

Walsh asked if there is anything else needing a vote. Lovern and Stillman said no. They also said the table voted on earlier includes some rates covered in the special fees book, so they are useful as context, but did not need a recommendation by this Council.

Walsh said she wanted to second President Schott's thanks for giving her the gift of flexibility. She said the Council members have done an amazing job in light of all that we're facing. She said it's one thing to do a tuition increase by itself, and quite another thing to do so with all of the things confronting us. She said the Council demonstrated excellence in doing their homework, attending meetings, and asking good questions. She said when it's time to go to the Board of Trustees she'll go with a lot of confidence in the work done by this group, and she has great faith in the Board of Trustees and their work. She said the Council members have represented the students, staff, and faculty very well and she considers it an honor to have chaired this group.

Pardo said she's met with students in the last several weeks and heard that some are still concerned with transparency around COVID-19. She said some students didn't get the application for CARES act support even though they should be eligible, while others didn't know SOU Cares reports can be used to report food instability. She said she wanted to raise these issues so the university can make sure to do better in the future. Walsh thanked Pardo and said she has heard similar comments from ASSOU president Brittany Sharp. She said she believes there were some glitches identified with the CARES act applications we'll make sure to work it out. She said there will be additional disbursements of CARES act money in the fall so we will have a chance to improve.

Carr said her participation on the Council has been a good experience and she appreciates having a seat at the table. She said it's been hard, but a worthwhile experience. Walsh said she always thinks about the students on the Council because they're directly impacted by the decisions the Council makes. We're all impacted, but the students are impacted more directly. Carr said it's been an eye-opening experience and she thinks she can relate that to her fellow classmates as well. Walsh said the students on the Council have been amazingly objective. She said she's never felt they had an agenda.

Guenther said thanks to everyone for being so patient as some of us learn this process. Eldridge said she learns something every year and she's proud of SOU and the people in this group. She said it gives her a lot of faith that we'll get through this.

The meeting ended at 2:27pm.