

Tuition Advisory Council
Wednesday, April 5th, 2023

Council Members (✓ indicates the member was present)

- ✓ Blake Jordan – Student
- ✓ Derek Keller – Faculty Member
- ✓ Erica Knotts – Faculty Member
- James Miller – Student
- ✓ Keeley Reiners – Student
- ✓ Matt Stillman – Administrator
- ✓ Julissa Taitano – Student
- ✓ Susan Walsh – (Chair) Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Guests Present

President Rick Bailey, Steve Larvick, Greg Perkinson, Neil Woolf.

The meeting started at 3:00pm.

Walsh welcomed President Bailey to the meeting. President Bailey thanked the Council for the time and effort it has put into this process. He said he knows the Council's recommendations are not something that are arrived at quickly or without a lot of deep thought. Walsh said the Council has taken his comments and guidance to heart, particularly his statements about not wanting to put the finances of the university on the backs of the students and about wanting SOU's tuition increase to be one of the lowest among our peers in the state. She thanked him for providing those helpful parameters.

REVIEW AND UPDATES

Perkinson displayed a PowerPoint presentation and Walsh updated the Council on what has happened and changed since the last meeting. She said at that time we had already seen the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB), which proposed funding the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) at \$933M. Recently, the Ways and Means Committee co-chairs presented their proposal for the budget and they propose funding the PUSF at \$947M. She said the student incidental and green tag fee recommendations have been made by the Associated Students of SOU (ASSOU). Housing and meal plan rate changes have also been proposed.

Moving on to things that are still unknown, she said we don't know what the final PUSF funding will be, and that may not be known until late May or the middle of June. Perkinson said that number will not be known until after the revenue forecast update on May 17. Walsh said we still don't know about the sports lottery funding, but we sometimes find out about that a little sooner. Perkinson said the timing can be highly variable and that funding is sometimes used as

a political football. He said he's heard that there's a possibility it will be funded fully at 1%. Walsh mentioned that the possibility of a \$15M earmark for the Technical and Regional Universities (TRU's) has been discussed at previous meetings. That earmark was included in the GRB, but it is not included in the budget proposed by the Ways and Means Committee co-chairs. President Bailey said this came up at a meeting he had recently with the office of the Governor. The Governor is supportive, but this would be one-time money, not something recurring, and the Governor has been clear that this should be used for long-term investments that will bring in returns down the road—things like Core Information System Replacement (CISR) and solar power are examples on our campus. President Bailey said when he met with the Ways and Means Committee co-chairs, the earmark was not on their radar. Another challenge is that once this earmark was included in the GRB, some other institutions said they are also hurting and need money. Walsh said another factor we do not know yet is how our fall enrollment will turn out. Woolf said he could provide more detail later if desired, but generally speaking, things are trending up, though we're always looking for enrollment to be even higher.

TODAY'S TASK AND PRO FORMA UPDATES & ASSUMPTIONS

Walsh said the task for today is to review the updated pro forma and assumptions, look at the fee recommendations from ASSOU and Housing, and decide on rates for each tuition category.

Perkinson discussed some subtle updates to the pro forma. He said the projected amount of funding SOU would receive from the state has been fine-tuned based on the GRB and the funding model. Because the difference between GRB and Ways and Means co-chairs' budget is not very large, we're sticking with the conservative approach and using the GRB number. He said with regard to assumptions in the pro forma, to establish a baseline we're still modeling a 3% tuition raise for the first fiscal year, and then raises in the following years of 5%. He reminded the Council that there has been discussion about one-time moneys that have not been baked into the pro forma. He said Supplies and Services (S&S) numbers haven't been significantly altered. On the cost side, Perkinson said we've been working to fine-tune the timing of when positions would come off the books, which has resulted in very subtle adjustments. There has also been a very subtle adjustment related to Public Employee Benefit Board (PEBB) rates; we re-ran the numbers and made a slight upward adjustment on the PEBB rate based on updated data on what we're paying right now. He said this does not have a huge impact, but there is a subtle upward adjustment. He said we're working to stay true to the principle that our pro forma modeling is based on what we know and what we can conservatively predict; it's not aspirational or overly optimistic. President Bailey said we should keep S&S on our radar as we lead into next fiscal year so we can take a look and decide what's reasonable; for example, we may consider tweaking that next year if we need to do so to keep pace with inflation.

Perkinson moved on to look at the updated pro forma. He pointed out that we're looking at some improvements in future years when you look at our key performance indicator (KPI) of the university's fund balance as a percentage of operating revenue. Larvick noted one real subtle item on the pro forma; he said once a faculty member goes out on retirement, the

payment to them shows up under S&S rather than Other Payroll Expenses (OPE) because they're no longer on our payroll, so that's one driver that influences S&S. Stillman asked what assumptions are being factored in with regard to future enrollment. Perkinson said enrollment is modeled at -1.6% for next year. He said he believes Josh Lovern is modeling a stabilization of enrollment, not growth. Larvick said this enrollment assumption is based on recent reports and different categories of students. President Bailey asked if enrollment is projected to flatten out around 2025 or 26. Larvick said yes, 2025. Stillman said he would recommend not over-assuming past the next year. He said the reliability of projections degrades significantly past that.

FEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Perkinson moved on to discuss fee recommendations, starting with the mandatory fee recommendations made by ASSOU. Woolf said recommendations have been made for the Student Incidental Fee and Green Tag Fee. He said there is a Student Advisory Committee that the Student Recreation Center Director Hugues Lecomte works with to reach a recommendation on the Student Recreation Center Fee. Reiners said the Advisory Committee has not yet actually voted on that recommendation. Walsh asked if Reiners is confident that the recommendation is on track to be similar to the proposed increase from \$104 to \$118 that is represented in the presentation. Reiners said she thinks so, though she can't speak for the others on the Committee. Perkinson said as this process comes to a close, there will be some documents prepared for official signatures so they can go to the Board of Trustees. He asked Reiners about the timing of the Recreation Center Fee recommendation. She said the Committee is scheduled to meet on April 18th and finalize a recommendation.

Perkinson displayed a slide showing the enrollment fee setting roadmap and discussed the process. He said his recommendation is to hold the Building and Technology fees flat. He noted that the recommendation is that the Student Health Services Fee be increased from \$175 to \$187. Woolf said costs have grown in health care and the increased fee will allow us to maintain our service level and grow mental health services. President Bailey asked if the recommendation came from Student Health and Wellness Center Director Anna D'Amato. Woolf said yes.

Perkinson navigated to the next slide, showing impacts of fees on resident undergraduate students. He said this slide gets to the balance of fees and tuition and how they affect costs to students, which can be an interesting springboard to the conversation about tuition rates. He said Stillman prefers for tuition costs to be whole numbers of dollars, rather than decimals, so that explains the different percentages reflected. For example, a 2.87% increase to resident undergrad tuition would come to \$6 per credit, and with the fees discussed, that would add up to make the composite fee we report to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) an increase of 3.01%. Walsh asked for confirmation that the HECC composite rate assumes 12 credits per term for undergraduate students. Perkinson and Stillman confirmed.

Perkinson said no adjustment to the one-time matriculation fee is being recommend. Regarding Housing and Dining fees, he said he supports the proposal from Housing Director Staci Buchwald for a 3% increase for housing units and variable rate increases for different meal plans from 2.4% to 4.11%. He said all of the fees and rates discussed combine to an increase in overall cost of attendance for resident undergraduate students of 3.05%. Walsh asked about the S, O, and U meal plans and whether they are new. Perkinson said they are pretty new, and what we did was build a sort of middle plan. President Bailey asked if that middle plan idea came at the request of the students. Perkinson said yes.

TUITION RATE DISCUSSION

Larvick shared his screen. He said he put together some rate examples so the Council can see how different rates affect the ending fund balance. Perkinson suggested starting by talking about resident undergraduate tuition and what rate the Council would like to consider. President Bailey noted the variation in tuition rate percentages displayed and asked about the guiding principles behind the variation. Larvick said that the different percentages (for example 2.79% in one category and 3.11% in another) are a result of rounding to whole dollars. He said the default is currently 3%, but rounding to get to whole numbers brings in that deviation. Walsh said, for context, that at the last meeting the Council talked about being at or below 3%. President Bailey asked for confirmation that the different rates for the MBA online and MSED tuition are because those are done in coordination with Academic Partnerships. Walsh said that is correct, those are set at market value. President Bailey asked about the increase of 3.7% for Advanced Southern Credit. Perkinson said that is also a result of rounding; it corresponds to a \$2 increase per SCH.

Larvick explained the “Impacts of Tuition Rate Increases on E&G” document he shared prior to the meeting. He said the Council can use it to see the effects of different tuition rates on the ending fund balance. Walsh thanked Larvick for putting the document together and said it was helpful to have. President Bailey agreed.

Walsh said she would be interested to hear what the faculty and students are thinking. Knotts said she would love to see if there’s a way to lower the rates for Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) and non-resident students. She noted that the non-resident rate is proposed at \$636 per SCH and suggested that it might be worth looking at what would happen if that were to change to \$630, for example. Walsh said the WUE rate is automatically 150% of the resident undergraduate rate, but the non-resident rate could be changed independently. Taitano asked if there has been any further discussion about compounding online and other fees. Woolf said, regarding the WUE rate, that he was at another school that tried to do something different than 150% of resident undergraduate tuition for their WUE students and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) noticed and objected; they are watching that and checking the websites of universities to make sure there is no deviation. Regarding compounding fees, he said Stillman is in a workgroup trying to figure out how to address that issue, but nothing will change in time for this year. Stillman said that’s right, we’re working on a completely different approach for next year. He said having separate rates and

fees made sense 10 years ago, but it doesn't anymore. He said he thinks the workgroup will bring a pretty radical proposal, but the mechanics and other considerations are complex, so they are taking time to make sure they don't mess anything up in the process.

Keller discussed the optics of different numbers. He said getting below 3% by even the smallest amount might make a statement without costing much in lost revenue.

Reiners said she would want to lean more toward the 2% - 2.5% range, though even lower would be better. Walsh asked Reiners if there might be a tradeoff. For example, if we decreased the non-resident number a little more aggressively and but keep the composite rate about where it is. Reiners said she would want less of an increase across the board, but she understands that it may not be possible. Knotts added that it has been a consistent message that we don't want to put this on the backs of students. Looking at how high the non-resident rate is currently, she said she'd prefer not to increase that as much. Larvick said he just adjusted the non-resident rate to see the effects and it looks like it is within \$100K of the numbers we see at the 3% rate because there are comparatively few non-resident students. Knotts said she doesn't think the percentage increase needs to be zero, but if the dollar increase could be closer to the dollar increases for the other tuition categories, which are in the \$6 to \$9 range, that might help. Stillman said his only hesitation is that part of how we market WUE and why it's popular is because it's a significant discount off of the stated non-resident tuition rate. He said it wouldn't be a problem to keep the non-resident rate lower for one year, but if this approach is adopted over the long term, it could affect the attractiveness of our WUE discount.

President Bailey said he would have to leave the meeting shortly, but he appreciated the opportunity to hear the Council's deliberations. He said he appreciated the comment about optics and, for example, if we are close to 3% and it costs relatively little to get to 2.99%, he would want to do that. He said the fact that our model is built to project tuition increases of 4.9% in future years is something that should be looked at in the future, but understanding the challenges we're facing now, he's fine with it for the time being. Walsh said if the Council is able to achieve consensus, that is the goal, but if that isn't possible, the minority group would have the option of weighing in on why they did not agree with the majority. She said the Council's recommendation would be sent to President Bailey soon. President Bailey said it would take something really drastic for him not to want to accept the recommendations of the Council. He said he's putting a lot of confidence in this group and their work. Walsh said she believes the rates under discussion would mean the lowest tuition increase we've presented in the last several years. President Bailey said that's great, and all of the other institutions are struggling as well. There are challenges at the state level and their position on higher education, so we're going to fight like heck to make sure the state understands what their decisions lead to.

[President Bailey left the meeting]

Walsh asked the Council if they have any comments, questions, or things they would like to see modeled. Perkinson said, looking at the 2.5% option, the revenue offset is not huge. He said he

appreciates the comment about optics, and the lowest increase was 2014-15 at 1.4 percent, while the highest recently was in AY 19-20 when the increase was at 9.88%.

Stillman asked about the “JackJo Pledge” tuition rate. Larvick said that comes out to a 3.11% increase because of rounding. Walsh reminded the Council that the JackJo Pledge is available to high school students from Jackson and Josephine counties. They have the opportunity to come in to SOU, then basically get a degree in 3 years. She said SOU keeps that rate pretty close to the RCC tuition rate. Perkinson said he doesn’t know what RCC’s rate is going to be next year, but since that is the one outlier over 3%, he would be interested in seeing if that were to be \$160 rather than \$161. This changed the percentage from 3.11% to 2.5%. Stillman asked if SOU is under an obligation to RCC not to make our rate lower than theirs. For example, if their rate is higher than ours, would that a problem. Walsh said she isn’t sure if RCC is even aware of our rate, it was an internal conversation to allow us to appeal to students who might be considering a 2-year degree. This rate might encourage them to consider a 4-year degree for not too much more money. Stillman asked if the 3.15% increase in the staff tuition is because of rounding. Larvick said yes.

Keller said he is concerned about the talk at an earlier meeting about the enrollment trends looking like we may experience a downturn in the middle of the decade. He asked what it looks like in terms of real dollars when we look at the difference between 2.9% and 2.5%. Perkinson said that comparison can be seen on the Tuition Changes at Different Rates document. Keller asked if it’s possible to look at what the future would look like if we were to increase tuition by 3% every year rather than 5% after the first year. Larvick said he did include that scenario in the document and you can see that it’s not as sustainable, we’re in a downward trajectory and that magnifies over time. Keller said it looks like the idea of going rogue and keeping increases low is not sustainable over time, we’d have to make up for it next year or the following year. Larvick said enrollment is key. Perkinson said that gets to the art and the science of forecasting. We’ve taken a fairly normal approach to the forecasting, with a 5% tuition increase in the out years, conservative enrollment projections, and so on, but anyone who says they know what things will look like in 2 years is wrong. We have a bit of a crystal ball regarding next year, but it gets really murky after that. Walsh mentioned that one hit we took with regard to enrollment is the decline in community college enrollment. If that starts getting better we should start seeing some better enrollment because many of those students go on to study here.

Woolf said he wanted to provide some perspective and remind folks that one of the tools we implemented a couple years ago is financial aid leveraging. He said the flip side of that is that we do need to have enough money to provide services. He said tuition isn’t the only tool we have to keep things affordable for students. There are other tools that allow us to provide a customized amount to students. He said in an ideal world the state would provide funding for higher education as a public good, but that’s not the world we live in. Perkinson said that puts in context why Oregon Tech, who are already one of the more expensive options, may be coming in at a 5% increase. Walsh said she would assume that one of the reasons for that number is to avoid going in front of the HECC, so they’re incentivized to keep it at or below 5%. Keller thanked Woolf for his discussion of financial aid leveraging. He said he did some work

over last weekend on student scholarships in his program, and the financial aid can make a significant dent. Not every student gets it, but it can be sizeable.

Walsh asked if any of the Council members have something they are adamant about and want to express; something that is a bridge too far. Reiners said she personally would not approve an increase above 3%. She added that the discussion of optics sounded like a slap in the face to her; something that would be done for marketing purposes rather than for the benefit of students.

Perkinson suggested looking at the effects of bumping the graduate tuition down. Walsh said it is not likely to make much of an impact overall because of the comparatively small number of graduate students. Larvick modeled a variety of different rates for undergraduate and graduate, resident and non-resident students.

Knotts said she thinks it would be better to keep the non-resident rates lower. She said the percentage changes may be the same as other rates, but it's quite a bit more in dollars.

Larvick said one other thing to consider is that the university can offset some of the impact of tuition increases by raising additional scholarship money.

Reiners asked to see the scenarios if non-resident tuition were raised by different dollar amounts, like \$12.

Walsh asked Larvick if, given the conversation so far, any of the proposed rates look concerning as far as what they do to the overall picture. Perkinson said even looking at an increase of 2.5% across the board, the net impact is somewhat diminished, and it keeps us effectively treading water.

Walsh asked how Council members were feeling about the rates being discussed [See below, rates per SCH. Academic Partnerships programs not included because those rates are set by a different process]:

WUE: Increase from \$314 to \$321

Undergraduate Resident: Increase from \$209 to \$214

Undergraduate JackJo Pledge: Increase from \$156 to \$160

Non-Resident: Increase from \$617 to \$629

Undergraduate Online Resident: Increase from \$209 to \$215

Undergraduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$314 to \$323

Undergraduate Online WUE: Increase from \$314 to \$323

Graduate Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$540

Graduate Non-Resident: Increase from \$630 to \$649

Graduate Online Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$541

Graduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$541

Graduate Master's Education: Increase from \$450 to \$464

Staff: Increase from \$62 to \$64

Course Based Tuition: Increase from \$118 to \$122

Advanced Southern Credit: Increase from \$52 to \$53

Early Entry Credit: Increase from \$193 to \$198

Several members said they feel comfortable with these rates. Keller said he's comfortable, though he's worried about the future if our enrollment doesn't increase and the initiatives being pursued don't end up bringing in additional money. He said he wants to be here until retirement, so he's concerned about the long-term financial viability of the institution. Walsh said she also worries about the future and appreciates Keller's perspective. She said there are many unknowns and things that could go one way or another, like enrollment, philanthropic work, and so on.

Jordan asked about the cumulative percentage in the current scenario. He said he wants to make sure that by saving money now we're not just setting ourselves up to need larger increases later on.

Larvick explained that some links in the spreadsheet are not updating and adjusted the spreadsheet to fix this issue. He displayed what a 2% base increase would look like with rounding:

WUE: Increase from \$314 to \$320

Undergraduate Resident: Increase from \$209 to \$213

Undergraduate JackJo Pledge: Increase from \$156 to \$159

Non-Resident: Increase from \$617 to \$629

Undergraduate Online Resident: Increase from \$209 to \$213

Undergraduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$314 to \$320

Undergraduate Online WUE: Increase from \$314 to \$320

Graduate Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$538

Graduate Non-Resident: Increase from \$630 to \$643

Graduate Online Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$538

Graduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$536

Graduate Master's Education: Increase from \$450 to \$461

Staff: Increase from \$62 to \$63

Course Based Tuition: Increase from \$118 to \$121

Advanced Southern Credit: Increase from \$52 to \$53

Early Entry Credit: Increase from \$193 to \$198

Walsh asked Knotts how she is feeling. Knotts said she's definitely thinking about the future, but the numbers look nice where they are, with percentage changes around 1.88%. She said these numbers speak volumes to the type of year we've had and what President Bailey has said about keeping tuition low.

Woolf asked how much of a burden would be added on to future years by virtue of going to 1.88%. Perkinson drew the Council's attention to the Change from "Base Year" line in the Impacts of Tuition Rate Increases on E&G document. This shows yearly decreases of around

\$300K. Woolf said he wants to be mindful of the precedent being set this year if we were to add extra pressure to next year and beyond. He said the difference may appear minimal now, but it creates a bigger gap to cover in the future. Walsh said it's definitely real money. Woolf asked what it would look like factoring in increases of 3% next year and the following years. Larvick adjusted the spreadsheet and the losses each year versus a 3% increase this year and 5% in future years came out to about \$1M per year. Woolf said that would mean we need to budget differently and act differently. Perkinson said he would advise the Council to focus on next year rather than the following years. He said he thinks the dialog is healthy, and he appreciates the comment from Keller about wanting to retire here. There's so much we don't know next year, so many things could happen good or bad, we could have a recession and the legislature could change their mind on the PUSF level. He said our future-years forecast is an attempt to stabilize the unknowns and he would encourage the Council to focus on next year.

Walsh said it's a very challenging task to try to be mindful of what's happening currently and looking at the future knowing that we just came through an incredibly difficult several months. It's a tough balance. We all want the best for the university.

Walsh said it would be good to check in about where we are. She asked Taitano if she's still in the same place with her thoughts on the rates. Taitano said yes. Perkinson asked for clarification if the numbers being discussed now are the ones currently displayed:

WUE: Increase from \$314 to \$320

Undergraduate Resident: Increase from \$209 to \$213

Undergraduate JackJo Pledge: Increase from \$156 to \$159

Non-Resident: Increase from \$617 to \$629

Undergraduate Online Resident: Increase from \$209 to \$213

Undergraduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$314 to \$320

Undergraduate Online WUE: Increase from \$314 to \$320

Graduate Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$538

Graduate Non-Resident: Increase from \$630 to \$643

Graduate Online Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$538

Graduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$536

Graduate Master's Education: Increase from \$450 to \$461

Staff: Increase from \$62 to \$63

Course Based Tuition: Increase from \$118 to \$121

Advanced Southern Credit: Increase from \$52 to \$53

Early Entry Credit: Increase from \$193 to \$198

Walsh asked Stillman about his thoughts. Stillman said he has mixed feelings about the numbers displayed. He would like to keep tuition low, but he's worried about the future and it feels like we're kicking the can down the road if we go with tuition rates closer to where we were at the start of the meeting, around 2.67%. Walsh asked if Stillman meant a 2.67% increase for resident undergraduate tuition and non-resident undergraduate tuition. Stillman said he's pretty agnostic on the non-resident rate. Keller said he's inclined to agree with Stillman; we don't want to be in a hole, kicking the can down the road. He said from what he's heard about

what was going on before he came to SOU, he doesn't want to have to do some egregious tuition hike if a hole appears in the budget. He said for the sake of planning he's proceeding as though the entrepreneurial ideas and philanthropic development may not be successful, so it's a conservative outlook. He said he feels more comfortable above 2% rather than under it. On the other hand, he said he's familiar with tuition pain, so it's a mixed bag. Stillman said there's a high level of uncertainty around projections and even being off by just 1% can make a big difference to the university. He said his daughter is a freshman here and he doesn't want to see tuition any higher than it is, but he's concerned about the health of the university.

Walsh asked Keller for his thoughts. Keller said he would like to be around 2.75%.

Walsh asked Knotts about her comfort zone. Knotts said she thinks the numbers displayed now look good but, she does recognize that it wouldn't be realistic in the long term. She said her preference would be around the 2.5% area, probably no higher than 2.6%.

Walsh asked Jordan for his thoughts. Jordan said it seems like we're between a rock and a hard place. He said with the sentiment among students, he's not sure if the Council could recommend a high number, but then we wouldn't want to have to go there down the road. He said he's leaning more toward 2.7%.

Walsh asked Reiners for her thoughts on the undergraduate resident rate. Reiners said she would be most comfortable with 2.6% or 2.5%.

Walsh asked Taitano for her thoughts. Taitano said as a student, she would be comfortable at 2.7% for now rather than having to do 5% down the road.

Perkinson said that Larvick has been adjusting the spreadsheet during the conversation and he has come to a set of rates that might be close to what we're hearing. Larvick displayed:

WUE: Increase from \$314 to \$323

Undergraduate Resident: Increase from \$209 to \$215

Undergraduate JackJo Pledge: Increase from \$156 to \$160

Non-Resident: Increase from \$617 to \$629

Undergraduate Online Resident: Increase from \$209 to \$215

Undergraduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$314 to \$320

Undergraduate Online WUE: Increase from \$314 to \$323

Graduate Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$539

Graduate Non-Resident: Increase from \$630 to \$643

Graduate Online Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$539

Graduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$536

Graduate Master's Education: Increase from \$450 to \$462

Staff: Increase from \$62 to \$64

Course Based Tuition: Increase from \$118 to \$121

Advanced Southern Credit: Increase from \$52 to \$53

Early Entry Credit: Increase from \$193 to \$198

Perkinson said for the undergraduate resident rate, operating in whole dollars gives us the option of \$214 for ~2.3% or to \$215 for ~2.8%. Larvick continued to tweak individual tuition rates to show the different percentage changes.

Taitano/Reiners moved to recommend an undergraduate resident tuition rate of \$215 per SCH; the motion passed, 7Y/0N/0A.

Stillman said he's still a little worried about modeling with an assumption of 5% tuition increases going forward. He said he feels like that's a little aggressive. Walsh said she thinks there's some discomfort around going much above what the Council just voted on, but she agrees. Perkinson said he respectfully disagrees; looking at our tuition rates over time, the sweet spot is in the 4.5% - 5% range. We've had higher and lower. He said he really appreciates the sentiment, but he disagrees about what the number should be. He said he would want to know what the number would be if not 4.9%, but for now would want to put a pin in it and talk about it with the Board.

Walsh said in the past the Council has gone line by line to recommend rates, but it could take a different approach. Perkinson said if it wants to, the Council could vote on the table currently displayed as a whole:

- WUE:** Increase from \$314 to \$323
- Undergraduate Resident:** Increase from \$209 to \$215 [approved by previous vote]
- Undergraduate JackJo Pledge:** Increase from \$156 to \$160
- Non-Resident:** Increase from \$617 to \$629
- Undergraduate Online Resident:** Increase from \$209 to \$215
- Undergraduate Online Non-Resident:** Increase from \$314 to \$323
- Undergraduate Online WUE:** Increase from \$314 to \$323
- Graduate Resident:** Increase from \$525 to \$539
- Graduate Non-Resident:** Increase from \$630 to \$643
- Graduate Online Resident:** Increase from \$525 to \$539
- Graduate Online Non-Resident:** Increase from \$525 to \$536
- Graduate Master's Education:** Increase from \$450 to \$462
- Staff:** Increase from \$62 to \$64
- Course Based Tuition:** Increase from \$118 to \$121
- Advanced Southern Credit:** Increase from \$52 to \$53
- Early Entry Credit:** Increase from \$193 to \$198

Knotts asked if the Council has voted on the fees. Perkinson said that, administratively, the letter is signed by the ASSOU President and President Bailey, so the Council does not need to vote on the Fees.

Stillman/Reiners moved to recommend the following tuition rate changes:

- WUE:** Increase from \$314 to \$323
- Undergraduate Resident:** Increase from \$209 to \$215 [approved by previous vote]
- Undergraduate JackJo Pledge:** Increase from \$156 to \$160

Non-Resident: Increase from \$617 to \$629
Undergraduate Online Resident: Increase from \$209 to \$215
Undergraduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$314 to \$323
Undergraduate Online WUE: Increase from \$314 to \$323
Graduate Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$539
Graduate Non-Resident: Increase from \$630 to \$643
Graduate Online Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$539
Graduate Online Non-Resident: Increase from \$525 to \$536
Graduate Master's Education: Increase from \$450 to \$462
Staff: Increase from \$62 to \$64
Course Based Tuition: Increase from \$118 to \$121
Advanced Southern Credit: Increase from \$52 to \$53
Early Entry Credit: Increase from \$193 to \$198

The motion passed, 7Y/0N/0A.

Walsh said this recommendation will be written up and sent around to the Council members to double check. Then, it will be sent as an official recommendation for President Bailey's signature.

Walsh said this has been a particularly challenging year with all that's going on and she really appreciates the thoughtful, insightful, honest, and heartfelt work of the Council. She reminded the Council that the meetings at which the Board will consider the President's recommendations on tuition and fees are scheduled for April 20th and 21st, and Council members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting ended at 5:16pm.