

Tuition Advisory Council
Thursday, March 21st, 2024

Council Members (✓ indicates the member was present)

- ✓ Derek Keller – Faculty Member
- ✓ Demetrius Davis-Boucher – Student
Erica Knotts – Faculty Member
- ✓ Josh Lovern – Director of Budget and Planning
Elena Pereira – Student
- ✓ Matt Stillman – Administrator
- ✓ Rook Smith - Student
- ✓ Casey Shillam – (Chair) Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- ✓ Neil Woolf – Chair Vice President of Enrollment Management

Guest Presenters

The meeting started at 12:00pm.

Summary

Meeting Minutes Not Approved

Meeting minutes were unable to be approved due to lack of voting members.

Lovern outlined the timeline for the next Board meeting and suggested wrapping up fee decision discussions in the 10 days. The team identified significant disparities in the current model, with students taking a combination of online and face-to-face classes being charged more in fees than those taking all their classes online or face-to-face. Lovern revealed a breakthrough in identifying the population of online-only students, which he planned to present to the Board in April, as well as the APPSU group, faculty, and senate. The team also discussed the complexities of course fees and how they might be communicated more effectively. Potential student engagement in the discussions about reducing education costs could be effective.

Discussed was importance of transparent communication regarding financial changes within their institution. Shlliam checked with the group to assess the team's feelings about a 4.99% increase, asking for their input after Woolf brought it up the previous week. Stillman expressed his thoughts on being close as possible to this number. Kellar suggested that the new fee model discussed previously could offset the proposed increase, making it more egalitarian. They agreed on the need to explain why increases in expenses, such as rent and tuition, are being made, and how these changes would impact students. Smith suggested that it would be beneficial to involve students, like themselves, in the messaging to ensure it

resonates with the intended audience. The team also discussed the recent increase in minimum wage in Oregon and how it might alleviate some concerns. Lastly, they planned for a campus forum to further discuss these issues.

Kellar expressed concerns about not having a quorum for the meeting, leading to a discussion about scheduling additional meetings to ensure attendance and quorum. The team also discussed potential funding impacts, including a Mental Health Bill and a Congressionally Directed Spending amount, and the need for updated projections for enrollment. The team agreed on a timeline and a backup plan to ensure the meeting's success.

The meeting ended at 12:45 pm.