2014-15 Academic Year and 2015 Summer Session Tuition & Fee Book

Comments

Report of Comments Received During Public Comment Period
April 21, 2014 through May 2, 2014

Public Hearings

In light of the governance changes in the university system and no increases in undergraduate tuition, it was decided that the Chancellor’s Office would not host any in-person public hearings this year. Instead, the public was encouraged to submit their comments via email.

Electronic Submissions (feebookpubliccomment@ous.edu)

This is the fourth year OUS has encouraged online public comment. The Draft Academic Year 2014-15 and 2015 Summer Session Fee Book was posted online and a dedicated email established. Notification of the availability of the online review was published in all communications regarding distribution of the Draft Academic Year 2014-15 and 2015 Summer Session Fee Book. A total of two responses were received via the dedicated email.

Comments Summary

- In total, two comments were received.
- Both comments were from current students at WOU – one undergraduate and one graduate
- Neither expressly supported nor opposed the tuition and fee rate changes for 2014-15:
  - One focused on the overall cost of higher education and increasing student debt
  - One focused on student debt and expressed a need for caps on fees for online classes

Comments follow in their entirety as received.
Testimony Received Online via Email

To Whom it May Concern:

As a junior at Western Oregon University I have thoroughly enjoyed my time within the Oregon higher education system. I came from a rural part of Central Oregon where I was taught to work hard for the things I want, and that debt should be a last resort. With that mind set, I was determined to graduate with as little debt as possible, and am so fortunate to only have taken out one, smaller loan of just $5,500 (plus interest of course). However, I also have worked all three years, and plan to work through my forth. I have put in forty hour work weeks while taking eighteen credits.

I am not going to complain about the increasing costs of higher education. Yes, I do truly believe that higher education is expensive, and that the increasing debt of our young people is a problem. But I also understand that it would be far more expensive without the assistance from the tax payers in Oregon. During class today we were discussing what would happen if a student refuses to pay his or her loans. It sickens me that this happens, and then tax payers have to pay the bill. We have some amazing young people that are going to contribute greatly to our society, but we also have far too many young people with their hands out and the mentality that they don’t need to work for their education, it should all be on the shoulders of tax payers.

I know this doesn’t make your decision any easier, but I wanted to let you know that there are some students in the world that appreciate the assistance that we already receive, and understand that education comes at a price.

Thank you,
Jessica Hand
PO Box 70
Silver Lake, OR 97638
541-420-1768
Student at WOU
I was lucky enough to have scholarships to assist with my undergraduate degree. I went to community college first, which helped a lot, and I put any financial aid refund into an account for my undergraduate degree. Now however, that money is gone, I have loans, and I am working on my graduate degree. I am not doing it for fun, I have to because I am a teacher and have to have credits, etc to renew my license. The problem is graduate credits are expensive, there are extra fees for taking classes online (I work 2 jobs, can’t be on campus), and there is no “max out” or cap where I can pay a certain amount in fees for online classes and then stop paying. I can’t afford graduate school, nonetheless 3/4 or full time, but I am put in a situation where I have to. I live with my parents and am unable to move out because tuition replaces rent and utilities and then some. Caps need to be in place for not only current students, but future students, or else we won’t have anyone going to school because it is too expensive.