



Oregon  
University  
System

**Tuition Policy Workgroup**  
Thursday, April 2, 2009, 3:00-5:00  
WOU Werner University Center Willamette Room

**MINUTES**

Participants

Brian Fox, OUS Board Member (Workgroup Chair), Katy Barnett, ASEOU President, Shonna Butler, OUS, Michael Fung, PSU, Tamara Henderson, OSA Executive Director, Jay Kenton, OUS, Virginia Key, EOU, Andrea Larson for JP Monroe, UO, Tracey Lehman, OIT, David McDonald, WOU, Kate Peterson, OSU, and Matt Rose, ASUO, Matt Stillman, SOU Student Affairs, Jerred Taylor, ASOSU Senate Chair. Minutes by Rita Brown.

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The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

Review of Tuition Policy Workgroup Guiding Principles Draft Document

Kate Peterson and David McDonald presented the draft Guiding Principles, which they reviewed and edited prior to this meeting. Discussion ensued and further edits were proposed by the workgroup. Brian Fox agreed to incorporate the edited language into the document for presentation to the Board on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*See Appendix A, final Draft Tuition Policy Workgroup Guiding Principles, presented to the Board on April 3, 2009.*

Next Steps

If general support of the document is received from the Board, then Jay Kenton would like to present this document at Ways & Means before Senator Hass and Representative Gelser. He would hope to have several committee members at the hearing.

*Note: Brian Fox and Jay Kenton did speak with Representative Gelser; however, they were unable to schedule a hearing as they were too late in the process.*

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

**Draft  
Tuition Policy Workgroup Guiding Principles**

The Legislative Assembly declares: "... that higher education for residents of Oregon who desire it and are qualified to benefit from it is critical to the welfare and security of this state and this nation and consequently is an important public purpose. [1993 c.240 §3]"

In the early years, higher education was a privilege of only the very gifted and affluent. Over time, these qualities drove American society to redefine the goal of higher education, which became in Clark Kerr's (1982) words, "to serve less the perpetuation of an elite class and more the creation of a relatively classless society, with the doors of opportunity open to all through public education."

In agreement with the Legislative Assembly and with the goal of re-gaining a social compact via increased State support to improve access, affordability, and quality education for the people of the State of Oregon, the Tuition Policy Workgroup seeks to establish the following guidelines.

**Guiding Principles:**

When setting Undergraduate tuition rates, the following factors shall be considered:

1. Maintaining and increasing access for qualified Oregonians to be educated at Oregon University System (OUS) institutions.
2. Maintaining and increasing affordability for students through both support and advocacy for state funding and need-based aid.
  - a. Ensuring no student is deterred from enrolling at a participating campus or in a particular major due to tuition pricing.
  - b. Program demand and the salaries in the field upon completion of education should only be considered when setting differential tuition so long as need-based aid is available to avoid the cost of a particular major becoming an impediment to degree choice.
3. Nonresident undergraduate students should pay a larger share of instructional costs than resident students when the market allows. Nonresident rates should be competitive with those charged at peer institutions and sensitive to institutional nonresident enrollment changes and objectives.
4. Pricing tuition should be moderate and predictable and managed such that the quality of the education is not compromised to the extent this is feasible. Where

## APPENDIX A

budget resources are not sufficient to maintain quality, supplemental tuition increases should assist in redressing the imbalance between needs and resources.

5. Maintaining and managing institutional financial viability by balancing the aforementioned principles, access (participation), affordability, and quality with tuition pricing.

### **Considerations**

When setting tuition rates, OUS Institutions and the Board in consultation with student leadership should consider:

1. Level of State funding – this is the primary and critical factor
2. Institutional mission
3. Sustain quality of the academic programs and student experience
4. Institutional accessibility (size, location, program mix, capacity)
5. Peer/Competitor rates
6. Program cost
7. Value of degree, salaries in field, program demand and institutional capacity

It is a goal of the Board of Higher Education that as a matter of prudent fiscal and educational policy, state appropriations should, at a minimum, strive to provide at least 50% of the costs of an undergraduate education for all qualified Oregonians.