

MEMORANDUM



DATE: May 1, 2019
To: President Naganathan
CC: Vice President Foley, Vice President Fox, and Board Secretary Fox
From: Junmin Yee, President ASOIT-KF and Johnathan Nguyen, President ASOIT-WV
RE: 2019-2020 Tuition Recommendation Committee

Oregon Tech's Tuition Recommendation Committee (TRC) met eight times, beginning late Fall Term 2018 completing its work on April 23rd after holding four joint TRC/ASOIT student forums on both the Klamath Falls and Portland Metro campuses. The TRC was comprised of a broad and diverse group of students from both campuses, including multiple residencies, majors and interests as well as faculty from both the College of Engineering, Technology and Management and Health, Arts and Sciences and administrators. ASOIT leadership from both campuses attended every meeting of the TRC. As a group the Committee communicated openly and transparently with each other and, as importantly, with stakeholders across both campuses through student forums and faculty meetings.

ASOIT with support of Student Affairs and Finance and Administration advertised TRC meetings, student forums and provided links to material and feedback opportunities on the TRC website at www.oit.edu/trc in order to facilitate student and community feedback.

During TRC meetings and at the campus forums the Committee discussed internal budget projections for upcoming academic years, tuition rates at competitor institutions, state funding levels, state mandated cost increases, university financial aid strategy and tools to reduce the impact of tuition increases on at-risk student populations, among other factors. This information was used to develop the tuition recommendation for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Though a consensus based process at its April 23rd meeting the TRC established a tuition recommendation by reflecting on the principles established during its first meeting. These principles are as follows:

- Consider long-term factors when recommending the single year decisions (important to have a forward looking vision)
- Recognize the importance of affordability for students
- Tuition levels should be developed using data and information, including internal budget, comparator institutions, and external cost indices.
- Ensure we maintain the current service level, quality and support that Oregon Tech provides to students.

During the final meeting of the TRC it recommended a “middle path” tuition increases for undergraduate base tuition and differential tuition in order to maintain the quality and strong return on investment an Oregon Tech education provides, ensure continued investments in equipment intensive programs, and create the space for increased levels of financial aid to support student affordability and completion. The Committee’s recommended changes in tuition for the 2019-20 academic year are as follows:

- Base undergraduate tuition: increase by 9% over current rates.
- Health Program and Engineering & Technology Differentials: increase by 5% from 25% to 30% premium on base undergraduate tuition.

The TRC also recommended increases in remissions of 1% of tuition during the 2019-20 academic year and after receiving feedback from students encourage the President to prioritize investments in IT including, classroom and lab computer replacement, WiFi systems, etc. to improve student life and enhance the academic experience.

If additional funds for the Public University Support Fund, beyond those outlined by the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, become available the TRC discussed reducing tuition in the amount of 1% and increases in remissions for every \$20 million dollars in additional state support. The TRC believes this is an important component of setting tuition while under significant uncertainty in the total amount of state funding and have incorporated it into its recommendation.

After deliberation and consultation with students, ASOIT concurs with the Tuition Recommendation Committee’s recommendation and submits it for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Junmin Yee
President
ASOIT – Klamath Falls



Johnathan Nguyen
President
ASOIT – Wilsonville