



March 17, 2021

President Nagi Naganathan  
Oregon Institute of Technology  
\*\*Sent via Email only\*\*

Dr. Nagi,

Oregon Tech's Tuition Recommendation Committee (TRC) met six times, beginning in January and completing its work on March 12, 2021 after holding three virtual TRC/ASOIT student forums spread between the Klamath Falls and Portland-Metro campuses (one per campus and one combined with both campuses). The TRC was comprised of a broad and diverse group of students from both campuses, including those from different majors and residency statuses as well as faculty from both the College of Engineering, Technology and Management and Health, Arts and Sciences and administrators. ASOIT leadership was an active participant in 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.

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](http://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, and state mandated cost increases, among other factors. This information was used to develop the tuition recommendation for the 2021-2022 academic year and can be found on the TRC website.

At its March 12 meeting, the TRC established a tuition recommendation by reflecting on the principles established during its first meetings. 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

The TRC recognizes the continued uncertainty of state funding coupled with the continued increase in employee healthcare and retirement costs which are not within the university's control. Those factors place the university in a tenuous position while positioning itself to ensure continued investments in equipment intensive programs and new initiatives. The Committee's recommendation for 2021-22 academic year, resident tuition is:

- Increase by 4.9% over current base tuition rates
- Increase by 2% the Health Program and Engineering Technology Differentials

During the ASOIT forums, students from each campus provided comments and/or asked questions. While the KF students had questions about the overall budget and its pressures, and how tuition is used, a couple of the PM students made it clear that a tuition increase was strongly opposed as it would have a significant impact on them.

One comment from a Financial Aid staff member noted that the amount of a maximum Pell grant and the estimated tuition per year in 2012-2013 was a difference of \$2,204, and in 2020-2021 this difference has increased to \$4,924. However, the Allied Health and Engineering students are looking at a difference of \$8,148 due to the differential tuition rates.

The TRC also recommends maintaining financial aid remissions at 15% of the tuition revenue. Additionally, the TRC recommends a process to fund students challenged to cover the cost to meet the requirement to bring their own device.

The TRC recommends that the base tuition rate is decreased 1% if the state provides an additional \$50M to the PUSF.

Specific considerations for the Portland Metro campus that the TRC wants to highlight include:

- Campus visits by administrators (i.e., vice presidents, academic deans)
- Commitment to improve communication around issues and the student experience

The TRC appreciates the level of engagement of the members as well as the transparent information provided around the university's budget.

Sincerely,

  
Mason Wichmann  
ASOIT President, KF

 /es  
Peter Wantuck  
ASOIT President, PM

Cc: Dr. Erin Foley, TRC Chair, VP for Student Affairs  
John Harman, VP for Finance & Administration  
Sandra Fox, Secretary for Board of Trustees