
Docket Item:

Public University Tuition and Mandatory Enrollment Fee Increase Review

Docket Material:

Statute requires HECC approval of any combined increase in resident undergraduate Tuition and Mandatory Enrollment Fees above 5% at Oregon's seven public universities. Approval by the HECC is confirmation of its finding that the increase is appropriate. Statute does not further clarify what elements or factors the HECC should consider in assessing whether a requested increase is appropriate. Further definition of the process to be used by the HECC in its assessment of appropriateness also is not provided.

At its March 8, 2017 meeting, the Funding & Achievement Subcommittee instructed staff to review institution-adopted tuition and mandatory enrollment fee increases that exceed the review threshold. The Subcommittee additionally requested that staff prepare a summary of the information presented to the respective institutional boards at the time of adoption.

The Subcommittee requested that the staff-prepared summary specifically pull information from the institutional board packets to address the following themes:

- Affordability
- Student Involvement, Input and Impact
- Institutional Cuts and Cost Controls
- If and how the tuition and mandatory enrollment fee increase adjusts with varying Public University Support Fund (PUSF) scenarios

In addition to a summary of institution-generated information, the Subcommittee requested staff to obtain and report on:

- A student perspective on the tuition and fee-setting process;
- Should either institution be subject to this statutory tuition and fee increase review, an examination of how the increase may impact EOU or SOU's progress toward the conditions placed on the establishment of their institutional boards.

The board of at least one institution (UO), and perhaps a second (PSU), have approved tuition and fee rates for the 2017-18 academic year, enabling HECC staff to determine whether HECC review of the increases is necessary and allowing for the requested information summaries.

The University of Oregon adopted a tuition and mandatory enrollment fee increase in excess of the statutory 5% threshold at its March 2, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting. The requested summary is included in this docket item.

The Portland State University Board of Trustees was scheduled to meet April 11 to consider proposed tuition rates. This docket item was produced in advance of that meeting and any final decision on the PSU 2017-18 tuition and fee schedule. A HECC staff summary of the proposal, as published by PSU in advance of that meeting, is included in this docket item.

A summary of the student perspective of the tuition and fee-setting processes at each of these institutions will be presented at the May 2017 Funding & Achievement Subcommittee meeting.

These summaries are presented for Subcommittee discussion only. Action on all tuition and fee increases subject to HECC review is anticipated at the May 2017 Funding & Achievement and full HECC Commission meetings.