

Summary of Portland State University Tuition and Mandatory Enrollment Fees Increase in Excess of 5%

The following is a summary of the Portland State University's (PSU) efforts associated with its tuition increase related to topics the commission wishes to focus on: Affordability, Student Involvement and Cost Controls/Cuts. PSU is proposing an overall increase in resident undergraduate tuition and fees of 8.3%. As prescribed by Oregon law, HECC excludes certain fees from its calculation of the same increase, resulting in a rate of 8.4%, in excess of the 5% review threshold.

Affordability:

Portland State University will undertake the following efforts to ensure continued student affordability:

- An additional \$1.8 million will be dedicated to increased tuition remissions, which represents about a 10% year over year increase¹.
- The College Affordability Alliance of Portland area businesses is dedicated to helping PSU increase external scholarship revenue in order to maintain continued affordability².

Student Involvement, Input and Impact:

Portland State University utilizes a student budget advisory committee, which includes three student representatives, all of whom this year were part of the student government (ASPSU). This group held several meetings throughout the fall and winter terms to help develop tuition recommendations and the student submitted an accompanying letter with the tuition recommendations³. In addition, PSU Finance staff have presented and solicited feedback from students on a number of occasions, including direct presentations to ASPSU⁴ and to a campus-wide budget forums⁵. Finally, the PSU board held a listening session with students on April 7 on a number of topics including tuitions⁶.

PSU student participants in the SBAC have several comments on the proposed increase, including the following⁷:

- Encouraging the university to take a more proactive approach to encouraging and listening to student comments and concerns.
- Consider increasing resources dedicated to helping students better afford all aspects of college costs such as potentially dedicating an adviser to advise students on scholarship opportunities.
- Encourage students to work with the institution to lobby the state for increased support.

Institutional Cuts and Cost Controls:

Portland State University has identified a need for \$9 million in cuts for the upcoming fiscal year⁸. These cuts will come in a variety of areas but are most likely to come in terms of personnel reductions, given that PSU's budget is 85% personnel costs⁹. PSU is electing not to utilize its fund balance at this time due

¹ <<https://www.pdx.edu/board/sites/www.pdx.edu.board/files/BoardofTrustees-11Apr2017-Meeting-v1.pdf>> Pages 51-60.

² <<https://www.pdx.edu/board/sites/www.pdx.edu.board/files/FinanceandAdministration-05Apr2017-Meeting-v1.pdf>> Page 4-5.

³ Ibid Page 29.

⁴ Ibid page 18.

⁵ Budget forum slides at <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1CXChTNbhdqA-Lvu9BLIaPqQyxwLEurjp7uRKpMp6_PE/edit#slide=id.g1d273fac58_0_2>

⁶ <<https://www.pdx.edu/board/april-7-2017-special-meeting-with-students>>

⁷ <<https://www.pdx.edu/board/sites/www.pdx.edu.board/files/FinanceandAdministration-05Apr2017-Meeting-v1.pdf>> Page 29.

⁸ <<https://www.pdx.edu/board/sites/www.pdx.edu.board/files/BoardofTrustees-11Apr2017-Meeting-v1.pdf>> Page 58

⁹ Ibid page 58.

to its view that the fund balance will be needed to limit future tuition increases and avoid future significant cuts. PSU has identified approximately \$8 million in these cuts as part of a strategic planning process begun in fall 2016 and will look to identify the remaining \$1 million in necessary cuts soon¹⁰.

Tuition increases Based on PUSF Levels:

Portland State University has not indicated whether or not it will base its tuition decision the final PUSF level.