

Docket Item: 9.1 - Public University Tuition Setting Update

Summary:

This document summarizes the status of the academic year 2025-26 tuition and mandatory fee setting process for each of the public universities. None are expected to seek Commission approval for an increase in undergraduate, resident tuition and mandatory fees that exceeds five percent. The impact on student affordability is unclear due to the uncertainty around the availability of funding for financial aid.

Docket Material:

The table below notes the annual tuition amounts for entering full-time undergraduate, resident students including mandatory fees the HECC includes in its calculations. For universities with multiple campuses and/or student cohorts, a weighted average is also displayed. The weighted average is the calculation used to assess the five percent threshold.

Increase in Tuition and Fees				
	2024-25 Tuition and Fees	2025-26 Tuition and Fees	Increase %	Status
EOU	\$9,972	\$10,332	3.61%	Awaiting Board Approval
OIT Klamath Falls	\$11,891	\$12,370	4.03%	Board Approved
OIT Wilsonville	\$11,288	\$11,749	4.09%	Board Approved
<i>OIT Weighted</i>			4.09%	
OSU Corvallis	\$12,954	\$13,645	4.89%	Board approved
OSU Cascades	\$12,546	\$13,199	4.79%	Board approved
<i>OSU Weighted</i>			4.89%	
PSU	\$10,662	\$11,193	4.98%	Board Approved
SOU	\$10,985	\$11,534	4.99%	Board Approved

Increase in Tuition and Fees				
	2024-25 Tuition and Fees	2025-26 Tuition and Fees	Increase %	Status
UO	\$15,700	\$16,294	3.78%	Board Approved
<i>UO Weighted</i>			<i>1.09%</i>	
WOU	\$10,269	\$10,782	5.00%	Board Approved
NOTES: EOU is preliminary. Their board meeting is scheduled for May 21-22, 2025. OIT approved the ability to go up to 4.5% dependent on the level of funding for the PUSF.				

HECC Staff Observations

Pursuant to ORS 352.103, the public universities are required to use a tuition setting body as part of an inclusive and transparent process. It must include a minimum of eight members with two administrators, two faculty, two students representing student government, and two students representing historically underserved populations. The table below provides more information.

Process Summary				
	Total Members	Student Members	Total Meetings	Student Forums
EOU	16	5	6	2
OIT	16	6	4	2
OSU	24	5	10	4
PSU	19	7	11	1
SOU	8	4	6	0
UO	21	6	9	2
WOU	10	5	4	0
Required Minimum	8	4	N/A	
NOTES: There is no required minimum number of meetings and/or student forums. Both PSU and WOU sent an online survey to gather feedback from students.				

Many of the governing boards offered clear guidance at the outset to center student affordability by limiting increases which informed many of the conversations. Some boards provided specific thresholds while others offered a suggested range. In all but two instances the tuition setting body's recommendation ended up being adopted by the President and the board.

The process for soliciting student feedback differed across campuses including town hall style presentations (in person, but also recorded for students who could not attend), student surveys, and targeted meetings with specific groups. Student participation in the tuition setting process was considerably higher than in past years. More students attended in-person forums, and the ability to provide feedback via online surveys at some universities was well received.

Overall, fees remained relatively stable with increases generally for health fees to maintain, and sometimes expand, health services. In a few instances, there were increases to fees that had experienced little or no increase in the past few years. Continuing conversations are occurring at most of the universities about the long-term implications of structural budget deficits. Specifically, the interaction between projected limited growth in operating revenues and projected cost increases.

Staff Recommendation:

Discussion only.