

Attendance:

The Tuition Recommendation Committee Open Forum was hosted during an ASOIT-KF General Meeting in Klamath Falls and a special meeting hosted by ASOIT-PM. Notice was provided to the campus community for students, faculty and staff.

TUITION FORUM NOTES Klamath Falls: Jan. 27, 2020 Portland-Metro: Jan 28, 2020

1. TRC Presentation:

- a. **Overview** – *Sam Henkell (KF), Stefan Valenzuela (PM) and Nashmy Luna (PM)*
 - i. ASOIT leadership provided an overview of the TRC charter, process and calendar.
- b. **Where does Tuition go?** – *Brian Fox*
 - i. Staff provided an overview of revenue and expenses at Oregon Tech, including tuition levels and expenses comparisons with other Oregon public universities and comparator public and private universities inside and outside of the state.

2. Q & A/Open Floor:

- a. **General Discussion (Portland-Metro)**
 - i. There are missing classes at times (terms) when students need them and the lack of course planning means is highly detrimental as it causes students to prolong their time in school. This increases the opportunity cost for students and sometimes the absolute cost as well. Lack of long-term planning can be highly inconvenient and it causes students to enroll at other CC's/Universities even if they don't want to.
 - ii. Students would like more detail on expenses. Unclear on exactly what information is necessary – but more than macro level budget data. One specific item was separating out Portland-Metro costs and Klamath Falls costs to the extent possible.
 - iii. Wi-Fi in classes is insufficient particularly when classes need to download large files for the course, the classroom computer set ups for faculty are often lacking useful peripherals like dual monitors and have very slow computers.
 - iv. Significant frustration that there is no communication between the leadership of the university in Klamath Falls and Portland-Metro. *“it feels like we’re an afterthought.”* It does not feel like there is leadership attention or focus on Portland-Metro and it feels like it is left to flounder despite significant upside potential to be larger/growing/thriving.
 - v. Online class quality is very low. Particular note was made of online math classes where the Pearson material is weak and the auto-grading system causes students to fail quizzes/exams unnecessarily even if they have correct answers.
 - vi. Frustration that students are paying more for online classes, yet it feels like there is as much energy put into teaching these classes (specific references to mathematics classes as well as a general sense). This including using stale old videos and material and not updating it or being responsive to student questions. Concern that this will hurt retention – *“why stay here (at Oregon Tech) if all we have are online classes of poor quality? Might as well go somewhere else.”*

- vii. Specific request that executives in charge of Student Affairs and Academics co-present the next tuition forum and make themselves available to answer questions regarding student services and academic quality issues.
- viii. It seems like Oregon Tech isn't advertising effectively or at a high enough quantity in the Portland-Metro area. We need to get out there and advertise and drum up enrollment/awareness because given the quality of the education potential students would come here (PM specifically). The discussion around enrollment included specific reference to high school recruiting or direct from community colleges in more 'traditional' age cohorts.
- ix. Oregon Tech needs to have dedicated enrollment/admissions folks in Portland-Metro and recruit at the High Schools for Portland-Metro.
- x. Important to keep small class sizes at Oregon Tech. That is what differentiates us from other universities.
- xi. Disappointment that we hadn't invested more in equipment at PM – noting the disparity in investment levels.
- xii. Really hard for students who are working to take classes at Oregon Tech as the class scheduling seems to be very disjointed and not aligned with the needs of students at the Portland-Metro campus.
- xiii. There are few in person CSET classes in Portland-Metro which impacts quality.
- xiv. "Why are faculty advisers?" A specific suggestion that the university hire professional advisor staff to increase the effectiveness/quality of advising.
- xv. Scholarship timing is problematic as essays/applications are due in the middle of the term when students are burned out/working hard on their classes, there was some disagreement on this from other students.
- xvi. There was a question as to why there are no scholarships/remissions for students in professional programs (EMS/MLS) students aren't eligible for presidential/other scholarships.
- xvii. Oregon Tech needs to go after external grants to support operations – we used to have a grants person who helped the university seek out and apply for grants, but don't anymore and because of that we are missing out on many opportunities.

b. Q & A (Klamath Falls)

i. *What do you value about Oregon Tech and your programs?*

1. One-on-one relationships with faculty members and small class sizes are what differentiates OT from other institutions.
2. Quality professors and retention of these professors are important – equipment was not the primary focus.
3. Students are able to put the degree they are working on to use in the community/practical application while they are still in the program (experiential learning opportunities/work experience/internships etc. related to the program).
4. Dual majors get to see two different areas of focus and get into the community and test the knowledge they are learning in the classroom/lab.

ii. *What would you like to see out of the tuition process?*

1. Lower tuition (said with chuckle).
2. Transparency in the process – let us know where we are headed while we try and grow the school.
3. We should be clear with students in high school that tuition may go up – seems unfair to talk about one price and then have it go up later on
4. A lot more communication between student body and committee members. Translating what it means and communicating effectively. Finding a way to get the information out about what is happening and why.

5. Explain what every % of tuition buys/what does it mean for the university
6. Help with more grants/financial aid. Students are only eligible for a certain amount of semesters. Help students to plan their time at Oregon Tech so they can finish without running out of financial aid.

iii. How are we managing out budget constraints?

1. Important thing to keep in mind is the quality of education. Making sure that we maintain the quality over time.
2. Professors are important. Where we are missing faculty is really problematic (discussion related to MMET). *"If you're making me take an online class because we are lacking professors (your poor planning) that really takes a toll on students being able to take those classes. And, how high is the quality of online classes?"*
3. Why are online classes so expensive? Especially if they replace an on campus class? And why are there building fees associated with it? [note: Substituting the option: Something we talked about for a while this morning. Resident students, online is more expensive, non-resident is less expensive.]
4. Mechanical Engineering Department: Machine Design I and II are only offered online and can't be taught effectively online. *"The professor recycles material from past terms. If we ask him to do something live, he won't do it."*

iv. How can you be involved in the tuition setting process?

1. Make your voice heard. Come to tuition forums and discuss with TRC members/ASOIT Officers.
2. Participate in University Lobby Day
3. Visit www.oit.edu/trc for more information as well provide your feedback on a Qualtrics Survey.