

## Oregon Public Universities Determining Tuition and Mandatory Enrollment Fees Background

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ORS 352.102, the statute governing the process for establishing tuition and mandatory enrollment fees at Oregon's public universities, clearly states:

- “The process must provide for **participation of enrolled students and the recognized student government of the university;**”
- The governing board of a public university must find any mandatory incidental fees recommended by the student government “**to be advantageous to the cultural or physical development of students;**” and
- The governing board **may not delegate authority** to determine tuition and mandatory fees to any other body.

Trustees and administrators at Oregon's public universities take their statutory and fiduciary responsibilities very seriously. It is one of the most important—and certainly the most public—portion of a board's role in governing an institution of higher education.

Current statute *already* mandates an inclusive, fair, and measured campus process to evaluate and set tuition. It also provides critical flexibility—a key component of the underlying intent of institutional governance (SB 270, 2013)—that allows each of the seven campuses to implement a local process that meets the unique needs and populations of the students and regions they serve.

Public universities work diligently on an annual basis to ensure timelines and deliberative bodies—comprised of a cross section of the student and campus community—work as transparently, inclusively, and effectively as possible. It is common for members of university administration and the recognized student body government to meet each year prior to the beginning of the tuition setting process to discuss how to make improvements to ensure *all* students—not just those who participate in the student government organization—can be involved and how best to deliver information to students.

Results of these annual meetings include instituting more tuition forums on campuses, adding designated seats to the groups to make recommendations to the provost and president, and starting the process earlier in the academic year to allow for better understanding and deliberation of all options.

Moreover, most campuses have online resources about the tuition and fee setting process, including standalone web sites that provide members of the public or campus community a wide array of historical university budget information.

Attached is a document that highlights portions of the tuition-setting process that specifically involve students. It is important to note that the summary information provided is not exhaustive. As noted above, universities have unique processes that may change year over year based on consultative processes with students.

**Oregon Public Universities  
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Individual Campus Processes**

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**Note:** Bolded text below indicated student participation in the tuition setting process.

<b>Oregon State University</b>	
<b>October 2016</b>	University Budget Committee – comprised of students, faculty and staff – reviewed and developed tuition proposals beginning in October and continuing through February
	Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee received tuition overview
	<b>Student Budget Advisory Council (SBAC) – comprised of students from different colleges and campus communities – provided advice on tuition to the University Budget Committee beginning in October and continuing through February. SBAC student chairs participated on University Budget Committee</b>
<b>January 2017</b>	Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee reviewed tuition scenarios
<b>February 2017</b>	<b>University Budget Committee completed meetings and conducted multiple student feedback forums</b>
	<b>Student Budget Advisory Council continued to meet February through June to provide other budget advice and comment</b>
<b>March 2017</b>	Provost reviewed the work of the University Budget Committee; President approved
	Board of Trustees approved the tuition rate
<b>June 2017</b>	Board of Trustees approved the FY18 university budget

<b>University of Oregon</b>	
<i>Tuition &amp; Fee Advisory Board site: <a href="https://uoregon.edu/tuition-2016-17-tfab-updates">https://uoregon.edu/tuition-2016-17-tfab-updates</a></i>	
<i>General Tuition Information Site: <a href="https://uoregon.edu/tuition">https://uoregon.edu/tuition</a></i>	
<b>October 2016</b>	<b>Tuition and Fees Advisory Board (TFAB) began meeting in October and continued through February; approximately 10 meetings are held</b>
<b>January 2017</b>	<b>Student forum held</b>
<b>February 2017</b>	<b>President and Provost solicit feedback from campus on the Tuition and Fees Advisory Board recommendations</b>
	<b>Second and third student tuition forums held</b>
	Presidential review and feedback given on final tuition recommendation to the Board of Trustees and recommendations posted on the website.
<b>March 2017</b>	Board of Trustees met to consider the tuition rate; public comment period available
	Board of Trustees approved the tuition rate

<b>Portland State University</b>	
<b>January 2017</b>	Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee met to set budget context and begin discussing potential tuition ranges
	<b>Student Budget Advisory Committee, comprising students, faculty and administrators, met to discuss university budget and tuition five times between January and March</b>
<b>March 2017</b>	<b>Budget and tuition presentation to student government at Student Senate meeting, which was an open meeting and attended by non-government observers.</b>
	Budget and tuition presentation to Faculty Senate
	<b>Interactive university budget town hall held, which was open to the entire PSU community</b>
<b>April 2017</b>	Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee met and made recommendation on tuition and fees to the BOT
	Board of Trustees approved the tuition rate
<b>Tuition Setting Process Revisions</b>	University added an additional university wide forum for students, faculty and staff
	Budget and tuition presentation to student government at Student Senate meeting will take place earlier in the tuition setting process to allow more time for student feedback
	University worked with ASPSU to cultivate earlier and more engaged participation with Tuition Review Advisory Committee (TRAC).

<b>Eastern Oregon University</b>	
<b>January 2016</b>	<b>Tuition scenario presentation and discussions with ASEOU, Budget and Planning Committee, Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee, and Executive Cabinet to elicit feedback, questions and suggestions</b>
<b>February 2017</b>	<b>Tuition proposal presentation at two ASEOU meetings, two campus-wide student tuition forums, Budget and Planning Committee, and Executive Cabinet to elicit feedback, questions and suggestions</b>
<b>March 2017</b>	Tuition proposal presented to Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee, Budget and Planning Committee, <b>campus-wide forum</b> , and Executive Cabinet to elicit feedback, questions and suggestions
<b>April 2017</b>	Final tuition proposal approved by Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee
<b>May 2017</b>	BOT approved tuition proposal
<b>Tuition Setting Process Revisions</b>	EOU students, shared governance and Board of Trustees expressed satisfaction in the tuition setting process, as it offered multiple points for interaction and feedback from various campus constituents. The tuition setting process will only be altered by moving the Board of Trustees tuition approval date by one month – from May to April.

<b>Western Oregon University</b>	
<b>October 2016</b>	Joint cabinet meeting called between the university administration and ASWOU to discuss tuition and other issues
<b>November 2016</b>	<a href="#">Student Tuition Advisory Committee</a> (STAC) met nine times beginning in November to discuss the university budget and tuition increases. One of these STAC meetings was a forum with the university president to answer questions about the university's budget
<b>January 2017</b>	Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee considered tuition and recommended a range for planning purposes
	Board of Trustees approved range for planning purposes; <b>ASWOU President had separate time to address the Board as part of the agenda</b>
<b>April 2017</b>	Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee recommended tuition rate
	Board of Trustees approved tuition rate; <b>ASWOU President had separate time to address the Board as part of the agenda</b>
<b>July 2017</b>	Board of Trustees reduced tuition rate after legislative action to send additional funds to the PUSF; <b>ASWOU President had separate time to address the Board as part of the agenda</b>

<b>Oregon Institute of Technology</b>	
<b>January 2017</b>	Tuition Recommendation Committee met to discuss tuition beginning in January and continuing through April
<b>April 2017</b>	<b>Series of campus community forums are held</b>
	<b>ASOIT submit letter to the President on tuition recommendation</b>
	President recommended tuition rate
<b>May 2017</b>	Board of Trustees approved tuition rate

<b>Southern Oregon University</b>	
<b>October 2016</b>	<b>Two campus-wide forums held to discuss tuition</b>
<b>January 2017</b>	Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee met to discuss tuition four times beginning in January and continuing through April
<b>February 2017</b>	<b>Tuition presentation to ASSOU Leadership</b>
	<b>Tuition Advisory Council met to discuss tuition four times beginning in February and continuing through April</b>
<b>March 2017</b>	<b>Three student focused presentations held on campus</b>
	<b>Two campus-wide forums held to discuss tuition</b>
	<b>Tuition Advisory Council presentation to ASSOU on draft tuition recommendation</b>
	<b>Tuition Advisory Council presentation to University Planning Board on draft tuition recommendation</b>

<b>April 2017</b>	<b>Tuition Advisory Council finalizes tuition recommendation</b>
	Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee approved tuition and recommendation
	Board of Trustees approved tuition rate
<b>Tuition Setting Process Revisions</b>	Oregon Student Association representative is invited to attend the Tuition Advisory Council meetings, with the specific request that they help the student representatives voice their thoughts throughout the process