**Budget & Planning/TAC Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Zoom Meeting**

**March 29th, 2022**

**3:15pm**

Helen Moore called the meeting to order at 3:16pm

**Present:** Vitor Pedrosa, Lyle Henderson, Linda Jerofke, Karyn Gomez, Tony Tovar, Katie Townsend, Kris Martens, Tressa Seydel, Cedric Riel, Isaac Insko, Scott McConnell, Emily Adams and Alexa Jamison

**Ex-Officio:** Lara Moore and LeeAnn Case

**Others:** John Garlitz

**Absent:**

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval of February 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion:** Karyn Gomez moved to approve the minutes as presented.

**Second:** Cedric Riel

**Discussion:** None

**Action:** Motion passed

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Sodexo Contract Renewal & Increased Dining fees**

Jeremy David Jones discussed the coming years circumstances regarding investment and rates. Sodexo is requesting a 3.4% increase which is much lower than most are requesting. He stated that with the increasing costs we will need to get creative in our operations. Jeremy reported that we will be investing 5.9 million in the residence halls over the next few years and while he would like to keep dining rates low, he is proposing a 3% increase.

**Questions:**

What is the total increase with last years increase and the proposed 3% increase?

*Single use rooms have seen about a $500 increase. Still an incredible deal compared to our competitors. Planning to implement an annual 3% increase.*

How close to max capacity are we currently?

*We aren’t close currently. Before the pandemic, we were pushing on max capacity and once we do we will have to look at expansion. We are putting things in place to achieve that mark.*

Current projections indicate that freshman numbers will go down. Students are already looking at a tuition increase as well as student fee increases are already happening, is there a reason that dining fees need to go up as well?

*Costs are going up. Cost increases will be significant and we still have to make payroll, provide maintenance to buildings, and cover the Sodexo increase. Remaining flat is not sustainable.*

Will the increased fees be used for maintenance and updates on residents’ halls?

*Yes, we are already working on improvements such as new windows and concrete work.*

**Tuition Proposal**

LeeAnn reported that there had been no changes to the tuition proposal since the last presentation, but that she and Lara wanted to get it in front of the group one more time before it was presented to the board on April 6th. She reiterated that our goal is:

* + To maintain the best value amongst all Oregon public universities
  + Build and maintain our financial stability
  + Serve our local regions

LeeAnn reported that without the tuition increase, we are looking at a $3.5-million-dollar budget deficit. The current budget does not include faculty or administrative professionals’ salaries. Tuition increase is one of the ways to mitigate the gap, though not our first choice. It is critical that we decrease the use of our fund balance in order to meet the 20-25% minimum goal level. LeeAnn also explained revenue increases and expectations and how a 1% increase or decrease in tuition effects our revenue.

LeeAnn went over the proposal of 4.9% increase for resident on campus, non-resident on campus and WUE students who pay 150% of the resident rate. Online resident rate would also increase by 4.9% while the off campus nonresident rate would increase by 4.25. Graduate rates would go up 2.5%. She also explained the proposed differential for business and computer science.

By initiating the tuition increases, we would move the budget deficit, which does not include salaries for faculty and administrative professionals, to $2.1 million.

LeeAnn reiterated the preference of increased enrollments and minimizing expenses and other revenue increases such as grants, over tuition increases but that without increased revenue, we are not sustainable for a long period of time.

**Questions:**

Karen requested a review of the slide that provided the fund balance information and stated that she thought the fund balance was more it was showing.

*LeeAnn explained that the fund balance is currently more than reported because we are anticipating spending an additional 1.8 million by the first of June.*

Do differential funds go into the general fund or department funds?

*Technically both. It goes into the general fund but the departments are funded through the general fund. LeeAnn also explained how the funds were used.*

Why is the computer science differential only being applied to this year? Though they are adding some online classes, it doesn’t seem to be a very rigorous program.

*Actually, the differential for CS was intended to go into place along with business but it didn’t happen.*

Is the differential fee driven by faculty pay differentials? If so are we looking closely at the complete cost of degree programs?

*LeeAnn stated that yes, that was part of the reason for the fee. In order to answer the second part of the question, she would be happy to invite the academic people or Holly Chason in to discuss complete degree costs.*

LeeAnn shared and explained additional tuition information slides. She provided graph discussion regarding student cost based on income as well as the multiple variables of graduate, vs. non-graduate, resident vs. non-resident, athlete vs. non-athlete and PELL grant recipient vs. student ineligible for grant.

**Questions:**

Is there anything EOU can do to overcome the $2 million deficit?

LeeAnn stated that w*e can grow enrollments and continue to look at possible reduction in costs.*

Will we return to major cuts like we had in 2016?

*Lara explained that the lower enrollments of COVID were not forecasted, additionally, we were right in the middle of growing our programs and structural improvements when our enrollments so quickly were reduced.*

*She also explained that very close attention is being given to costs vs. revenues and that the time is now to grow enrollments and capitalize on our investments. If enrollment does not improve, we will have to look at cost reduction.*

How does our tuition proposal compare to other OUS institutions?

*Lara explained that other institutions are in the 3% - 5% range with one of the smaller institutions reporting a tuition increase of over 5%*

How do we know if we are still the “Best Value” and that our students can afford to attend?

*Lara stated that we drive up fee remissions when we increase tuition. Though this doesn’t take care of all students it is one of the ways we try to offset the increase. We are in uncertain times and will have to continue to look at improved efficiencies as well as how we can increase enrollments.*

Do students really view us as “Best Value”?

*Students would probably get a better response to this question by creating a poll.*

**FY23 Budget Process Update**

LeeAnn briefly explained the budget process.

Overall, we had requests for $1.5 million which is much lower than years past. These are department requests for what they still need.

Preliminary review with the board in May before the final is presented in the fall.

**Guest Speakers;**

**Admissions-**

Genesis Meaderds-Director of Admissions

Alison-Portland Regional Admissions

Genesis shared the functions of admissions and how/where they are recruiting and that though they would prefer to recruit around the world, the constraints of resources force the team to prioritize and

Identify the most effective recruitment efforts. She also shared the duties included in recruitment practices.

Alison shared the process of recruiting and how they focus on trend scores. They also provide application workshops, which seems to help provide potential students with the information and assistance they need.

**Questions:**

Who is reaching out to the tribes to do recruitment?

*Benita Chavez, Admissions counselor for multicultural program.*

*She has reached out to the tribal high schools.*

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2022.

Adjourned at 4:30PM

Respectfully Submitted

Tonya Evans