

OCCC Board of Education Meeting
March 21, 2018
Agenda Item F.b.

Proposed Revised Board Policy 660 – Student Tuition and Fees

REFERENCES: ORS 341.290(7)

The Board shall establish tuition rates and set refund schedules for students withdrawing from the College. The Board will also approve all other student fees that are of general nature and impact the student body. Each year, the board may adjust the per credit tuition rate to reflect the needs of the college. The rate will be rounded to the nearest half-dollar and become effective the following academic year. The President shall submit recommended rates and fees and refund schedules to meet the budget calendar, and ensure that tuition and fee rates once set, are publicized.

Research in community colleges broadly and experience at OCCC has shown that implementing a single large increase in tuition in one year because tuition has not kept pace with inflation negatively impacts students' ability to project and plan for their cost of education and might also impact enrollment. In order to maintain a constant tuition rate relative to inflation, each year, the board will consider an appropriate index for two-year public colleges on which to discuss a tuition increase. Based on recommendations from the President, the Board will also consider tuition increases beyond the inflationary adjustment, based upon other revenue and expense considerations. Guidelines for the consideration of changes in tuition include:

- A. The college will be mindful of our market in determining tuition rates by reviewing tuition rates at other Oregon community colleges and local economic trends impacting our citizens.
- B. Regular incremental changes are preferred over large increases in some years and small or no rate changes in other years.
- C. Student tuition shall be set at the lowest responsible level consistent with the necessary resources for providing high quality academic programs and services.
- D. Changes in the level of state funding per student will be considered in the adjustment (up or down) of student tuition and fees.
- E. Tuition is the only significant source of revenue under the direct control of the board. Taking into consideration all revenue sources, the board will annually review the amount of tuition revenue required to:
 - a. Provide sufficient revenue to meet the essential budget level (EBL) required for college operations to meet annual fiscal requirements.
 - b. Fund the costs of new initiatives that are focused on meeting the strategic goals the board has established for the college.

Waivers and Reduction of Tuition

It shall be the policy of the OCCC Board of Education to allow the College President the authority to reduce or waive tuition as required by statute, contract, or to meet a compelling community need.