

March 12, 2025

To: President Peters and the WOU Board of Trustees

Subj: Recommendation from the Tuition & Fee Advisory Committee

After several months of meetings, gathering student input, and many lively discussions as a Committee while trying to keep the student at the forefront of our minds, we recommend a resident undergraduate tuition rate increase of 4.76%, \$10 per credit hour (from \$210 to \$220 per credit). Although the Committee overall supports this, we do recognize that every student dollar is precious. Our recommendation attempts to balance the needs to sustain the institution as well as the need for affordability for our students.

In our student survey with 444 respondents, 323 students (72.75%) responded in support of a 2.86% increase (see full survey results in appendix). Additionally, 217 students (48.87%) ranked affordability as their top priority.

Additionally, we recommend a 4.57%, \$8/term increase (from \$175 to \$183 per term) for health service fee for Monmouth-campus students, and a 4.62%, \$6/term increase (from \$130 to \$136 per term) for completely online/Salem students. In the student survey, 240 students (54.05%) responded in support of not increasing the health service fee. In response to student feedback, additionally we do ask the Student Health Advisory Committee to revisit and reassess exclusion options.

## Appendix: TFAC Campus-Wide Survey Results

Total Responses: 444

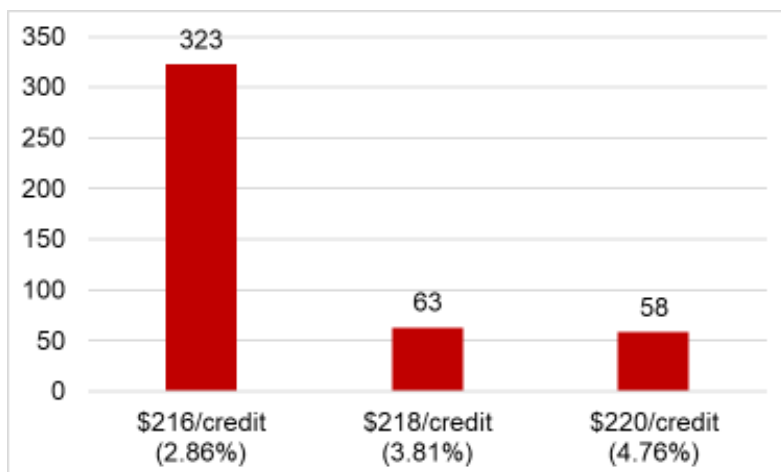
Question 1: The Tuition & Fee Advisory Committee (TFAC), comprised of WOU students, faculty, and staff, is seeking your input on undergraduate resident tuition rate increases for next academic year, 2025-2026. TFAC considers both the university's overall financial situation and the impact that increases have on students. The TFAC then makes a recommendation to the WOU President and ultimately to the Board of Trustees.

WOU currently operates in a deficit budget, using its reserves, as a result of declining enrollments, state funding shortfalls, labor cost increases, and inflation. The university knows it cannot balance the budget by raising tuition alone, which would require an ~24% increase. Further information is available to [read](#) or to [listen with slides](#).

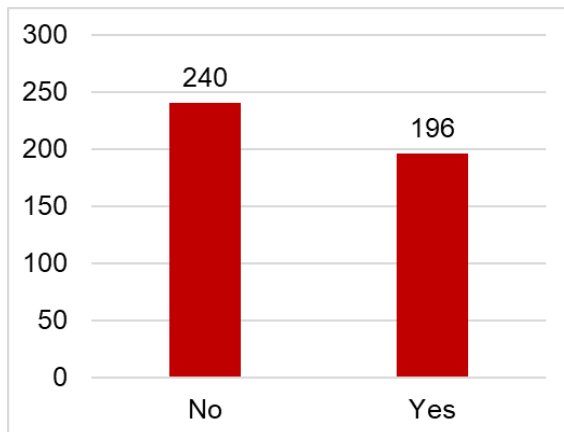
WOU's current resident undergraduate tuition rate is \$210 per credit. The table below summarizes the proposed rates being considering, the respective percentage increase, the annual increase in cost to student based on 45 credits per year, and the subsequent revenue to the university assuming flat enrollment.

	Proposed rate per credit	Percentage increase	Annual increase to student	Additional revenue
a.	\$216	2.86%	\$270	~\$735K
b.	\$218	3.81%	\$360	~\$980K
c.	\$220	4.76%	\$450	~\$1.225M

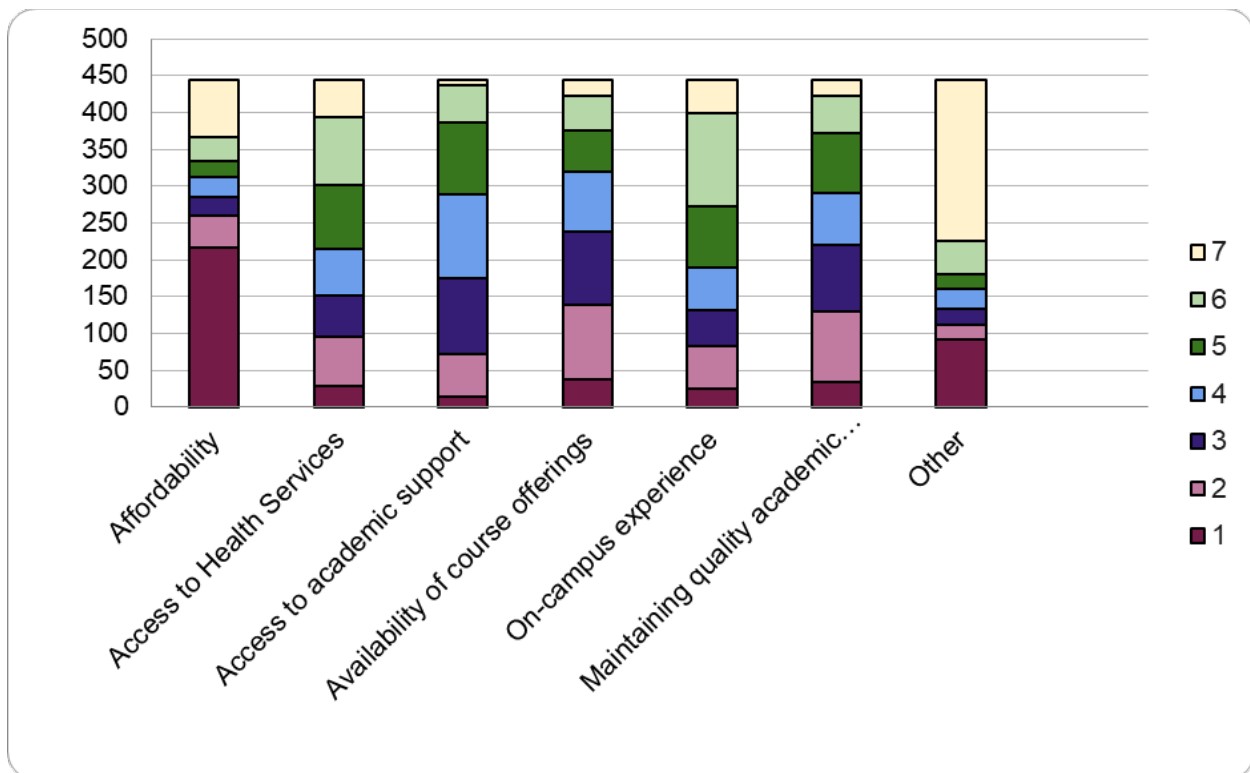
Which would you be most supportive of?



Question 2: The health service fee, paid per term by students, funds all mental health counseling and medical services available at the Student Health & Counseling Center. In order to maintain current service level, would you be in support of an \$8/term (4.57%) increase, bringing the fee to \$183/term for Monmouth-campus students (\$136/term, 4.62%, for completely online/Salem students)?



Question 3: Please rank your priorities for next year from 1 (top) to 7 (lowest):



Other Responses:

Priority	Response
7	Increase online courses, saves transportation cost
4	Online graduate programs
5	Abby's House
2	Ability to work
4	Access to affordable & actually decent meal options
1	Access to SAFE Food at the Dining Hall
1	Access to the arts programs, things like galleries and theater performances.
6	Access/Affordability to the HWC
5	advising
3	Aesthetic Vision/Pleasant campus.
6	Affordability
6	Affordability.
7	afqf
7	athletics
7	Availability of more off-campus opportunities (field trips, off campus activities, ect)
1	Availability of Online Courses
6	Availability of Professors who are able to provide the class with the information they are paying for, ie one of my professors doesnt know what they are teaching and the class is suffering because of it
2	Availability to online courses
1	Being able to graduate on time with lower course availability.
6	Being an out of state student being able to support myself while also paying for school and working full time.
2	Cheaper housing
7	continue to have online classes for thoes that are not able to take inperson class.
1	Cut the pay of the dean....and defend the girls basketball team instead of hanging them out to dry.
6	Decrease cost of schooling
5	Diversity in online classes and availability of online classes
1	Diversity programs
1	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
6	Don't have one
1	Eliminate the online student tax
6	Emergency support
6	events
2	Fees on online classes to be eliminated and all in person
4	Forensic science and forensic anthropology programs and classes
5	Funding the OT program
1	Get rid of the student health center altogether and provide guidance for students to

get mental health services through the county not only on a "Crisis" basis but on a consistent one. The wait can be similar to get into see someone, and students (most) would qualify for medicaid. The student health services is a joke. We literally pay "for access only" that is what I was told. If I need any type of healthcare beyond the free covid test (provided by the county for free, I was also told!!!) then I have to PAY for services, unless again, I have medicaid - which most qualify for - and they bill them, or any other insurance there is. GET RID OF THE STUDENT HEALTH PROGRAM AND THAT WILL GREATLY HELP WITH THE DEFICIT PROBLEM.

2 Gym

7 Had to place it at 7 to submit the form.

1 Had to select other to be able to submit the survey

7 Had to select other, not sure what to but here.

6 Having good instructors that care for student success!

6 Having more operating times for students that can't access resources outside of operating hours.

4 housing

4 housing?

1 I accidentally clicked it and I can't remove it.

7 I am unable to move forward unless I click other.

7 I believe western should focus its funds on the academic side of the house. Give students access to healthcare and give them the support they need to succeed. The degree is going to help them the most later in life. Being on the sports team will not. I believe we should cut funding for sports to maintain the quality of education that is currently provided here.

7 I do not think it is right for online students to have to pay fees for services we do not have the opportunity to take advantage of. Health services and on-campus experiences are not an option for me, yet I am funding these for other students. This is my biggest issue.

7 I don't have one

7 I don't know at the moment

3 I don't understand taking online courses require an online fee, shouldn't these courses be cheaper?

5 I feel strongly that online students should be able to opt out of paying for medical services and gym memberships that are impossible to use. Of all the fees I've paid in college, paying for a gym membership and doctor an hour and a half away from where i live feels to me to be the least helpful one.

4 I'd rather loose access to services that I don't use if it means that the ability afford classes is more accessible. What I would examine, is why is enrollment declining?

This seems like a larger, systemic issue.  
 7 ice cream machine  
 4 idk  
 2 If off-campus/online, utilization or resources such as health are lower.  
 2 IFC Funds for Creative Arts  
 7 In person ASL classes  
 4 include textbook costs with tuition, so that costs are all included upfront  
 4 Increasing the quality of existing programs  
 2 It made me select other.  
 6 Just had to select an option  
 4 Keeping core "WOU" programs like Criminal Justice and ASL to promote new students enrollment in those programs  
 1 Keeping faculty that have made my experience at WOU positive.  
 6 Keeping online courses available.  
 1 Keeping the non-tenured teachers in biology so that we have access to the courses we need to graduate! Please do not take away our non-tenured teachers!!!  
 6 keeping the professors that help the majors that struggle the most  
 7 Maintaing staff/faculty  
 2 Maintaining Campus Recreation's function and their vital outreach to students. They play a large role on campus as an outreach center and employer and they need to be presevered.  
 2 More in person class offerings.  
 5 More in-person class options.  
 4 More interactive activities that work around athletes schedules.  
 3 More travel options for those who want to study abroad.  
 3 My concern with raising prices and creating a higher revenue is what those prices will go toward funding. College is becoming exceedingly cost prohibitive with the career positions available and our current economy.  
 7 My lowest priority is marketing.  
 7 n/A  
 2 N/A  
 4 N/A  
 7 n/a  
 7 N/A  
 7 n/a  
 7 N/A  
 1 N/A  
 7 N/A  
 7 n/a  
 7 n/a

2	N/A
7	N/A
6	N/A
7	N/A
7	n/a
5	N/A
1	N/A
1	N/A
6	n/a
7	N/A
7	n/a
7	N/A
7	N/A
6	N/A
7	N/A
2	n/a
1	N/A
7	n/a
7	N/A ... currently
4	NA
1	NA
3	NA
7	NA
1	NA
7	NA
7	New buildings (do not build new builds pls!!!)
7	no
4	No grace on making payments. It kills students especially for those out of pocket students.....
7	None
7	none
1	none
1	None.
7	not for other, but I would like to suggest making the health service fee optional for students who have healthcare options outside of WOU, rather than raising the price for all students on top of other price increases.
4	Not having to pay for health services in tuition if not using the services. Especially with taking all online courses and not even being on-campus to use.
1	Nothing comes to mind.
7	nothing it just made me check the box

5 Offer the classes already in the catalog so degrees and their concentrations can be completed.

7 Online Career Devel for students

3 Online class availability

6 Online Classes

1 Online course availability

3 Online Course Options

5 online courses available

4 options for online students to get involved

1 Other

5 Please offer more available times/online classes. For athletes its really hard to register for classes during practice time. Im having to take my biomechanics class at another school during the summer because of this.

1 quality

3 Quality teachers

5 Retaining our non-tenure professors in the biology department

4 Scholarships

4 scholarships

6 scholarships for international students

4 Sports like Football, Soccer, Rugby all have the ability to draw in new students (if funding improved these programs)

7 Supporting our non-tenure track faculty that are imperative to getting our degrees. Tuition fees wont matter for a school no one goes to because there are no degrees <3

7 Sustainability

3 Swimming pool in rec center

7 The form required all rows to be selected, I did not have an other in mind, I just selected it to complete the survey.

7 The list is broken, the last one would be a 7 for Access to online courses, and the second to last needs to be a 6 for me please, so sorry.

2 the university needs to be smart with the money it gets and start standing on its own two feet rather than extorting the people that attend the school

2 Theater productions.

3 Transparency from the university in plans for the future

6 Using money for on campus activities that have no point should be lessened imo, I can understand funding for an informational event or some dances throughout the year, but a human hamsterball run? Really?

5 veteran center

7 Wave health insurance for students who already have a health insurance plan

7 Work outside academic hours



- 2 You should actually give sports funding
- 1 You should really find a way to keep the instructors that are bringing students back, or keeping students enrolled instead of giving tenure to people that cannot make connections to the current student body. This would alleviate part of the budget problem as well.
- 5 zoom opportunities for non campus people