



Rogue Community College
Budget Advisory Team Meeting



February 12, 2021, 11:30 a.m., via Zoom

Attendance: Lisa Stanton (Chair), Juliet Long, Jodi Simons, Kori Ebenhack, Natalie Herklotz, Rose Passione, Shannon Van Lehn, Rene McKenzie, Jodie Fulton, Elijah Bunnell, Paula Calcaterra, Terrie Sandlin, Patrick Jackson, Rosalyn Mendoza (recording secretary)

Agenda Item(s):

1. Discussion on Fees for Clinical Courses

Lisa Stanton opened up the discussion regarding the proposed fees for clinical courses.

- a) The proposed fees for clinical courses will take effect after the Fall 2021 cohort as students have already applied with the previous pricing model. Students will be eligible to apply for financial aid for this fee. They can also apply for extra grants, opportunities from employers after hiring, and scholarships to help offset costs. This fee will replace testing fees and other added fees.

Ms. Stanton then reviewed the proposed clinical courses fees for the following programs:

- a) The Nursing program proposed fee is \$1600 per term or \$9600 per program. This added instructional fee will help develop and expand the program. Currently there are 32-36 students. This will increase up to 48 students per cohort and allow hiring of up to three additional faculty. The application fee will remain but other added fees will be removed.
- b) The Practical Nursing program proposed fee is \$500 per term or \$1500 per program. This proposal is for the expansion for program.
- c) If the Dental Hygiene program is approved by the Board of Education there will be an instructional fee of \$1600 per term or \$9600 for the program to help cover the costs associated with starting a new program.

Question: As financial aid loans are unable to exceed the cost of attendance, will the cost of attendance increase based on this additional fee?

Answer: Lisa will speak with the Financial Aid office and add them to the process of adding clinical fees to solve this issue.

- d) Nominal fees will be added for several other practicum or clinical courses to offset current instructional costs.

- e) Another proposal to increase the fee for CPR and First Aid courses will be made to offset a direct fee charged by the American Heart Association.

2. Discussion on Tuition Increase

Ms. Stanton asked the BAT members for their input on the tuition increase of \$4 per credit for this coming year.

Question: From a student perspective, what is the reasoning behind the raise in tuition given the current COVID-19 emergency situation?

Answer: Tuition and Fees are one third of our revenue source and the Oregon state support is not sufficient to cover all of our costs and annual increases at our current service level. The current tuition rate is \$116 per credit. With the \$4 increase it would go up to \$120/credit. With the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Oregon Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, and the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II) authorized by the [Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 \(CRRSAA\)](#) some funds will be going back to students. There is a new package coming of \$40 billion for colleges and universities. The College is looking for opportunities to help offset the increase in cost to the students. The Instruction division has been reducing the number of credits required for graduation in different programs. The focus is to reduce every possible program to a credit graduation range of 90-100 credits.

Rene McKenzie thanked Lisa Stanton and Curtis Sommerfeld for attending past ASG meetings regarding tuition increases and invited them to attend this year to meet with students and answer questions.

Ms. Stanton reported that there were no updates to budget projections and discussed changes to tuition around the state. Some colleges are looking at \$9 increases per credit and some are looking at \$0 increases per credit. This is due to a very unusual year and lack of full funding by the state and changing legislation regarding restrictions on the federal funds received.

3. Discussion on Enrollment Levels

The question was posed to the group: How can we increase enrollment levels? Due to the many unknowns created by the COVID-19 emergency, people are resistant to make such a large financial commitment to education in this environment. Also, trust in the functionality of the financial aid processing portion of our system is a large concern among students. Due to the Campus Nexus transfer and consequent reversion back to Rogue Net, we need to use our integrity and talk with students and the community about financial aid and the processes in place to ensure correct and efficient processing.

As the College is now in an all online realm, RCC has entered into a saturated market of online education. The Associated Student Government (ASG) has heard from students concerns that RCC hasn't fully adapted to the online environment. The concern is that on top of financial aid issues students are asking is why attend RCC, when other online schools are well established and more efficient in the remote environment.

Question: With the reversion back to our RogueNet system, what will it take for students to trust RCC and come back?

Answer: We need to go beyond words and it will take at least a few terms of accurate and punctual financial aid processing.

Some of the challenges students are voicing through ASG are difficulties with communication in online classes, students feeling like they're getting less instruction and less interaction, wireless issues and connectivity, equitable resources and faculty internet connections. As we go forward, we will look at opportunities to improve all of these concerns.

4. Other New Business

None

5. Adjournment

Lisa Stanton adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Next Zoom BAT Meeting: February 19, 2021, 11:30 a.m.