



**Central Washington University  
Tuition Waiver Budget Subcommittee  
Special Meeting**

**July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
4pm-5pm**

**Present**

Josh Hibbard, Dennis Francois, Jeffrey Stinson, David Pena-Alfaro, Adrian Naranjo, Jill Hernandez, Mike Harrod

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.

**New Business**

1. Review Financial Aid Analytic Results on Tuition Waivers
2. Review Recommendation for Merit and Need-Based Waiver Changes for Fall 2021 and Forward

In cooperation with an outside consultant, Tuition Waiver simulations were completed earlier this year to model how different usages of the waiver would impact CWU. Josh presented an overview of the current Merit Waiver program for the group to review. He is proposing the following:

- Increase Merit GPA to 3.8 GPA
- Increasing CWU GPA requirement to maintain waiver to 3.0
- Eliminate testing score bonus

Applying the model to the current Fall 2020 student pool, if we increase the Merit GPA to 3.8, it is estimated that we would lose 37 enrolled students and would award \$1,003,370, but would end up with net tuition revenue of \$743,167. From a net tuition revenue perspective, applying the model to the Fall 2019 cohort also shows a favorable outcome if the proposed changes are implemented.

Dennis pointed out that implementing the changes to the Merit Awards would result in a significant loss in revenue to housing and dining (with 37 less students), but Josh countered that those costs

would be mitigated through the decreased need for staffing/supplies, and that the Business and Financial Affairs office has already evaluated that and determined that housing and dining would not be adversely affected budget-wise.

Dennis asked whether or not the merit levels were comparable to other institutions (i.e. funding level as well as GPA levels); there was discussion about how merit awards also have to be considered in the context of the overall cost of attendance for the institution offering the awards.

Josh also noted that it has been discovered that there is possibly a way to meet the gap between financial need and already awarded grants/scholarships using the "860" fund for most eligible (qualify for state funding) students whose parent's income is \$65,000 or less. This would be specific to first-year incoming students. Jeff questioned whether there was a chance that the state would rescind their promise to fully fund state need grants; Adrian reassured the team that the last communications he received from WASAC reiterated their promise of no funding reductions related to the grant. Adrian also provided an overview of how the merit awards would work.

Josh clarified that the overall goal is to increase our net tuition revenue, without negatively impacting the population of students we have prioritized to serve. Mike questioned whether merit should be the only thing we consider if we are offering this type of assistance to students (i.e. the other existing waivers). Josh suggested that they haven't modeled all of those waivers based on what the consultant provided, but it could be done if the team thought that was necessary; however, he and Adrian both noted that there were some time constraints associated with the merit waivers specifically, so the other waivers could be analyzed at a later date. Mike suggested that there should be some goal of an overall/limit for the amount of discount we are willing to provide to students through the merit waiver process, and Josh agreed.

There is no quorum in this particular meeting, so the group was unable to make a motion to approve or deny the recommendation at this time. Josh expects that Joel will take this topic to be discussed at PBAC, but noted that the President has placed some urgency on a decision/recommendation. Josh will forward the information he presented during the meeting to the team for additional review/feedback via email.