

University of Oregon plans 10.6% tuition hike In-state students would pay \$9,855 per year

By Caitlyn May
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Students hoping to attend the University of Oregon are going to have to come up with a bit more

money for tuition beginning this fall.

The UO Tuition and Fee Advisory Board recommended a 10.6 percent increase in tuition, citing cuts to state funding, salaries, health care and retirement costs.

The proposal, which must be approved by UO's Board of Trustees before taking effect, would increase in-state tuition by \$945 a year. It would also add additional fee costs of \$186. It would follow last year's increase of 4.8 percent which led to student protests both on and off campus.

"For some students a \$945 increase will make attending the UO difficult or impossible," said UO President Michael Schill in a letter to students and the campus community. "Yet the state's fiscal problems leave us no choice. Oregon's disinvestment in higher education over more than two decades has shifted the burden of paying for college from the state to our students and families."

Governor Kate Brown's plan calls for maintaining the status quo for university funding at \$667 million. However, the legislature's budget makes cuts across the board, including higher education, as the state grapples with a nearly \$2 billion deficit.

In-state undergrads taking the standard three terms of 15 credits would pay \$9,855 plus more than \$2,000 in related fees.

It's an amount that may stretch household budgets and as a local, state university, the increase puts some Oregon high school students in the position of choosing not to attend.

South Lane Schools District Communications Coordinator Garrett Bridgens said of the potential tuition hike, "Our high school counselors and senior 'sem' teachers work closely with our seniors every year on FAFSA, scholarships, and applying for colleges and

other trade schools." And while he was unaware if counselors are alerted to tuition changes at universities around the state, he noted, "I do know that our counselors are in contact with the local universities and colleges to help coordinate visits, admissions, and other scholarship opportunities specific to those schools."

University of Oregon is not the only local school looking to increase tuition in response to state budget cuts and soaring costs. Oregon State University has announced that even if it were to raise tuition by three percent, the school would still be left with a \$20 million shortfall for operating costs.

Current federal programs allow for low-income students to receive grants for higher education based on need. The Pell Grant allows qualifying students to pay for classes without having to pay those funds back after graduation. Other loans, such as Perkins, carry an interest rate and must be paid back upon completion of a degree or when a student falls below required course loads.

In his letter to students and campus community members, Schill touched on financially vulnerable students, stating, "As I have already noted, we will do everything we can to shield our most vulnerable students from the impact of this proposed tuition increase. The Pathway Oregon program continues to provide full tuition and fees to about 2,000 Pell Grant eligible resident students on our campus, including more than a third of our first-year resident students," he wrote. "We have also made significant progress toward achieving the goals set when we announced the Oregon Commitment in 2015, which provides advising, planning, and academic resources to help every student at the university graduate in a timely fashion. To every extent possible, we intend to maintain the integrity of those important efforts."

Students and families can research financial aid options by visiting fafsa.edu.gov.

Day without Immigrants has little effect on SLSD

By Caitlyn May
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While several school districts across the state reported higher than average absentees on Thursday, Feb. 16, South Lane School District Schools said levels remained normal.

Thursday marked "A Day Without Immigrants," a call for immigrants to stay home from work, school and to avoid spending money in response to President Donald Trump's travel bans and promises to build a wall on the U.S., Mexican border.

Woodburn, which has a school district that reports being three-quarters Hispanic, reported five to six times as many absentees on Thursday while Portland schools saw 500 additional absentees beyond the normal level. Salem-Keizer, North Clackamas and Hillsboro also reported higher than average numbers though no school was able to identify "Day Without Immigrants" as the certain cause for the absences.

South Lane School District reported that it had not gathered data on the absentee level in observation of the protest and had no current plans to do so as a school district.

Cottage Grove High School Principal Iton Udosenata said, "Our attendance rates yesterday were pretty normal. I know somebody asked me about the Day Without Immigrants and they said there were a couple of students who were normally here that weren't here but other than that our attendance rates were pretty normal."

Dorena Elementary reported normal numbers while Bohemia Elementary, Latham Elementary and Lincoln Middle School were not available for comment as of press time.

Lincoln School noted that it had five students absent on Thursday which was described as "moderate."

According to 2010 Census data, Cottage Grove is eight percent Hispanic with reporters identifying as at least two-races.



Pet Tips 'n' Tales by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

"As I walked by a man's camp site," said Cocoa, "one of his dog's puppies bounced over to me."

In the Lakota, language, Natearie means spirit seeker and she is a gift for Cocoa who has a heart problem. Natearie instinctually became a service/therapy dog who alerts Cocoa when her heart is not functioning properly and yaps until Cocoa sits down. The dog wears a special therapy harness."

Siberian Huskies come in four colors: white, red, black and silver, like Natearie. Their faces, eyes and coats resemble magnificent art work. They can have pale ice, dark blue, amber, green, or brown eyes that look right through you into your soul. Many of the dogs also have bi-color eyes.

Huskies are a playful friendly breed that love children and they are bred to run. Running is as innate to them as digging is for Terriers and swimming is to a Labrador. Huskies are able to run long distances, so they often get lost. Make sure your Husky is micro-chipped as ID collars fall off.

"I was concerned about Natearie's running," said Cocoa, "so I phoned the TV dog behaviorist, Cesar Millan. He said, 'Think of

her breed! She is bred to run, run, run. That is why mushers (dog-sled drivers) breed their dogs with mutt dogs, so they don't run themselves to death.'"

Cocoa's brother, who lives in McGrath, Alaska, knew of her dream to see the 1000-mile Iditarod sled-dog race so he made it come true. Natearie sat with Cocoa in the airplane's cabin to Alaska.

"I wanted my dog to witness her heritage," said Cocoa. "She was mesmerized seeing so many Huskies in their 14 member dog teams working together. The experience appears to have educated her to greater paws-ibilities, and she came back to Oregon a different dog."

"Before the Iditarod," said Cocoa, "many 'mushers' do a trail run for their dogs to memorize the trail in case there is a snow white out, and the dogs can't see the trail markers."

Natearie is a 64 pound female Husky and the fur around her tail is so thick that it measures 10 inches around. Huskies have four different layers of fur to keep them warm in Alaskan temperatures. They also dig down in the snow to keep 'warm' while resting below the wild winds. During the Iditarod, hay is put out for the dogs to nestle in.

"The trip was an amazing experience," adds Cocoa. "The mushers shared their best dog handling tips and I collected several autographs."

Huskies don't bark, they carry on conversations that sound human! Natearie can articulate, "I Love you", "Where is my mama?" and "Hi! How are you?" in bark-eze.

"My friend just taught Natearie to say, 'I want out!'" laughs Cocoa.

When the dog is left sitting in her truck, Natearie repeatedly pushes the vehicle's horn, honking as she barks, "Out! Out! Out! And the other day she said, 'I want OUT!'" So, Cocoa let her out!

When people tell Natearie how pretty she is, she smiles a typical Husky smile and bows

down to them!

"I never taught her that," confesses Cocoa, "she does it on her own! Recently, some children approached us and we were all shocked when my dog clearly asked them, 'Who are you?'"

"I had to get a bigger bed for myself and Natearie's three feline siblings," said Cocoa. "Just like me, they, too, love to sleep curled up to her. In Alaska, if someone says, 'It's a stray dog night', or 'It's a three dog night' out then they are announcing an extremely cold evening and how many dogs it takes to cuddle up to, to stay warm. However, they never said anything about adding cats to the mix!"

TIPS

Cocoa recommends brushing long haired dogs and cats often and has found that a Furminator brush keeps their fur healthy by removing the dead fur.

Longer version of this article is on: <https://www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales>

Share your pet tips and tales. angelscribe@msn.com.



"Natearie is a six-year-old silver Siberian Husky, who I trust with my life," said Cocoa.

South Lane County Fire & Rescue: Creswell Fire Station Advisory Committee.

South Lane County Fire & Rescue services a 132 square mile area for Fire/Rescue/EMS services based on voter approved taxing rates, levies, and bonds equaling \$1.80/\$1000, beginning with fiscal year 2016-2017. The current voter approved permanent and levied rate is \$1.50/\$1000 of assessed property value, including a house and five acres within the District's boundaries. The District further provides advanced life support ambulance service to an area totaling 850 square miles. The area outside the District's 132 square mile area does not provide tax revenue. The District operates from four fire stations and staffs the Cottage Grove and Creswell stations 24/7, with a combination of career/resident and community volunteer personnel. The Saginaw station is staffed 24/7 with off duty residents and the Camas Swale station with community volunteers. The District is managed by the Fire Chief who reports directly to the five member Board of Directors. All other District personnel report to the Fire Chief utilizing a chain of command.

The district is seeking individuals who have the desire to contribute to ongoing efforts aimed at enhancing and improving fire and EMS services in the South Lane County community by serving as an advisory committee member for replacing the District's Creswell fire station. Interested applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be an elector, or a property owner within the district. While any person meeting the requirements may submit a letter of interest to the Board of Directors, preference for appointment to the advisory committee may be given to those within the Creswell area.

Interested persons should submit a letter of interest to the SLCFR Board of Directors by close of business

Thursday March 9, 2017.

Letters of interest may be hand delivered, mailed, or faxed to:

**South Lane County Fire & Rescue
Attn: Advisory Committee**

233 E. Harrison Ave, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Fax: 541-942-3367

Office: 541-942-4493

Deadline for submitting a letter of interest is Thursday March 9, 2017 by 5PM



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