Dear International Student Community,

I write today to tell you about a new international student fee, which will provide more staffing and more services to support the academic success and improve the overall campus experience of the growing number of international students at the University of Oregon.

International student enrollment at UO has increased 25% in the last year, and over 88% since 2002. This fall, we welcome over 2800 international students from more than 90 countries. Every day international students share their perspectives around campus, in classrooms, residence halls, and in our Eugene/Springfield community. International students greatly impact the lives of everyone with whom they interact, while having their own transformative experiences that will forever help shape their world view.

We are proud of the services we provide to international students, from visa handling to International Student Orientation, to ongoing academic and cultural support. But staffing and the budget for programming in this area have not increased since 2003. With so many new international students, we need to make sure we are keeping up with service needs, providing the additional staffing and programming to support the international student experience from admission to graduation.

To this end, on June 21st, 2013 the Oregon University System approved a $200 per student per term fee for all UO undergraduate international students (to be phased in over four years, see below). As indicated in the 2013-2014 Tuition and Fee booklet, this fee will be used to offset the growing costs of providing specialized services to support international students. It will support five new staff in the International Student and Scholar Services unit in the Office of International Affairs. It will bolster our ability to swiftly process visas and other immigration paperwork; help maintain the excellent quality of our orientation programs; and make possible a new suite of programs to support international student academic progress, cultural exchange, and social engagement during their entire time at the UO. We are enthusiastic that these new services will roll out in 2013-14, and confident that they will ensure an even richer, more rewarding, more intellectually inspiring experience for international students at the UO.

The new international student fee will be phased in over a period of 4 academic years starting in 2013-14 at $125 per term, increasing to $150 per term in 2014-15, then to $175 per term in 2015-16, and not reaching $200 until 2016-17. During summer term 2014, the fee will be $125, and will move to $150 per summer term beginning in summer 2015.

To ensure that this new fee is not an undue burden on international students with significant financial need, the fee will be fully waived for the 10% of the international student population with the greatest financial need. International students attending the University of Oregon who are already receiving a need-based scholarship through...
the Office of International Affairs (ICSP, Endowed, or Workstudy awards) will automatically receive a fee waiver. Graduate (Masters and Ph.D.) international students, international students participating in a UO Direct Exchange program will not be assessed the new fee. All other international students are welcome to apply for a waiver for the international student fee. You may apply through our website: https://international.uoregon.edu/ifee. The deadline for applications is October 9th, 2013. Fee waiver application results will be announced via e-mail shortly thereafter.

The Office of International Affairs and the university community are committed to providing efficient, high-quality, high-impact services to international students at the University of Oregon and welcome feedback about this important new process. In that regard, we will continue an ongoing series of campus conversations convened by the Office of International Affairs last year about the current classroom and campus climate, existing programs, and student services as they relate to international students. These conversations will directly inform the development of the new fee-funded services that will begin to come online this year. As this dialogue unfolds, the Office of International Affairs will continue to actively seek and heartily welcome your suggestions and ideas.

Sincerely,

Dennis Galvan, VPIA