

OPEN SESSION PRE-READ / TUITION PUBLIC HEARING GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES FOR WILLIAM & MARY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON TUITION/FEE INCREASES

Code of Virginia, §23.1-307(D) and (E) – No governing board of any public institution of higher education shall approve an increase in undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees without providing students and the public a projected range of the planned increase, an explanation of the need for the increase, and notice of the date and location of any vote on such increase at least 30 days prior to such vote.

Prior to any vote referenced in subsection D, the governing board of each public institution of higher education shall permit public comment on the proposed increase at a meeting, as that term is defined in §2.2-3701, of the governing board. Each such governing board shall establish policies for such public comment, which may include reasonable time limitations.

- William & Mary will hold a budget hearing for the public followed by a public comment period whenever any type of tuition increase is proposed, including but not limited to in-state, out-of-state, undergraduate, graduate, and differential tuition rates for specific programs. This workshop/public comment period will be held during the 30-day window between the date that the public notice is given of the range of the tuition/mandatory fee increase and the Board's vote on tuition and fees. Public notice for these meetings will be given as required by law.
- At least three BOV members will be present for the public comment period, including at a minimum the Rector or Vice Rector and a member of the Committee on Financial Affairs.
- The hearing will begin with a presentation delivered by the university administration that gives the background and history of the university's tuition and fees and factors considered in developing the proposed percentage change and will be followed by a public comment period.
- Speakers can sign up on a first-come, first-served basis for the public comment period. Speakers will be asked to specify their affiliation with the university, e.g, current student, parent, alum, faculty/staff, member of the public, etc.
- Following the presentation, the public comment period will be held for 60 minutes. Additional time may be allotted if needed based on the number of those present who have not spoken.
- Each speaker will be requested to limit their comments to only proposed tuition and fees and their intended uses. Speakers wishing to have their comments entered in the public record must bring a copy.
- Written comments will also be accepted from the date that the public notice is issued and may be submitted in hard copy, via email, or online. Instructions for doing so will be included in the public notice.
- The full Board of Visitors will be sent all written comments following the public hearing.
- The BOV periodically will review these public comment guidelines, re-evaluate the time allotted for public comment based on demand, and modify the guidelines as appropriate.