Memo

To: Interinstitutional Faculty Senate

From: Jeff Dense, IFS President

cc: Vickie Nunnemaker, OSU

Date: 12/`14/2015

Re: HECC 12/10/15 Meeting Summary

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) met December 10, 2015 on the campus of Portland State University. Please find below 'highlights' of the meeting. Materials related to the below items can be found on the HECC website. If you are interested in further details, please contact me at your convenience. Happy Holidays! – Jeff

- **Brian Fox leaving HECC.** Fox, the Director of Public University Budget and Finance and the architect of the Outcomes Based Funding formula (OBF), will be leaving the agency effective January 15 to pursue a career opportunity with HCM, who served as the consultant in the development of the OBF.

- **Presidents Council Presentation.** With the exception of OSU President Ed Ray, the members of the public university Presidents Council attended the meeting and made a presentation on the current state of higher education in Oregon. The Presidents Council advocated for 'more steering and less cheering', i.e. the universities knew what was best for them and didn't need to be 'micromanaged', along with alteration of the OBF to provide further funding for graduate education and research.

- **EOU and SOU.** The Commission heard an interim progress report on fiscal conditions linked to sustainability plans at the two institutions. EOU President Tom Insko and SOU President Roy Saigo and their teams provided an overview of progress as stipulated by OSBHE. This was the final mandated update, and the Commission, with the authority to provide a recommendation to the Governor to dissolve institutional governing boards, decided to utilize the institutional evaluation process in the future to the status of EOU and SOU.

- **HECC Organizational Chart.** An updated organization chart was shared, and staff asserted the chart was 'leaner' that previous iterations under the OSBHE Chancellors Office, due in part to 'outsourcing' of shared services, and total comparative budgetary information was not provided. Several new positions yet to be filled were highlighted.

- **Campus Safety.** The House and Senate Judiciary Committees met during November legislative days to discuss the issue of campus safety in the aftermath of the Umpqua Community College tragedy. HECC and the Governor's office are convening a workgroup to address the issue, and IFS has been asked to participate. Rob Kyr of UO and Donna Lane of SOU have been nominated to serve on this important workgroup.

- **HECC Strategic Plan Discussion.** The Commission continued to discuss their 2015-2020 strategic plan. There was discussion on whether the legislature adequately understood what HECC is doing, re too much or too little. It was anticipated the development of the agency's strategic plan would drive expectations, and ultimately, agency evaluation by the legislature. While HECC had hoped to complete the final draft of the strategic plan by January, given concerns raised by stakeholders and members of the Commission, there may be a slight delay in finalizing the plan.

- **Oregon Promise.** An update was made with regard to the number of applications that had been received for the SB 81 related Oregon Promise, linked to providing free community college tuition. Over 7,000 applications had been issued, raising the specter of insufficient funding for the first year, as the legislature had approved only $10 Million in funding.

- **Program Approval.** OSU programs in Environmental Arts and Humanities (M.A.), Psychology (M.S/Ph.D.) and Athletic Training (M.S.) were approved as part of the consent agenda (i.e., no opposition in Provosts Council).

- **Issuance of Bonds.** One of the primary, and overlooked, statutory authorities of HECC centers on providing the Governor with recommendations for the issuance Capital Repair and Renewal (CRR) bonds. A HECC convened workgroup addressed a legislative note pursuant to HB 5005 to identify barriers and recommend changes to enable institutions to pursue issuance of CRR bonds. Legislative action is anticipate during the 2016 session.

- **2015 Capital University Capital Recommendations.** Associated with the previous item, HECC's Funding and Achievement Subcommittee offered recommendations to the Governor's office for capital construction projects to be presented to the Oregon State Legislature during their 2016 session. Note these requests are limited to emergency and technical adjustment proposals as they are outside the regular budgetary cycle. OIT, SOU and PSU submitted proposed projects. Two emergency projects and one technical adjustment proposal was recommended, SOU's request for $2 Million in XI-Q bonds for the McNeal Hall Building project, was denied. While SOU claimed "any further [reductions] would mean to eliminate the competitive gym *and the sports of basketball and volleyball entirely*." (my italics), the Commission determined the project did not meet the technical adjustments and/or emergency guidelines, along with HECC developed policies for bond issuance, specifically only "class, lab or student service needs". The primary implication of this recommendation is athletic venues fall outside the parameters of HECC's bonding policy, and commissioners duly noted the precedent that was being set with this recommendation.