

**IFS STATEMENT TO HECC STUDENT SUCCESS & INSTITUTIONAL
COLLABORATION SUBCOMMITTEE, JANUARY 22, 2014**

Chair Bryant, Chair Rubio, Executive Director Cannon and Members of the Subcommittee:

For the record my name is Jeff Dense, Professor of Political Science at Eastern Oregon University and President of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS). The Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS) represents the faculty of Oregon's public universities. As a dedicated partner in higher education shared governance, we are committed to applying our collective expertise to ensuring the quality of higher education in Oregon. The decades-long heritage of IFS is grounded in a collaborative spirit of information sharing, timely communication, transparency, and protecting the best interest of our most valuable resource: our students.

A review of today's agenda highlights the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and its various subcommittees' engagement with a wide range of vital issues effecting student success. Financial aid, dual credit, articulation, tuition levels and grades 11-14 transition are all key variables higher education stakeholders must confront in the pursuit of 40-40-20. In order for Oregon to attain this lofty aspirational goal, a myriad of financial issues ultimately affect access and affordability, key variables underscoring student success. While IFS recognizes the need for increased accountability during these lean fiscal times, it is imperative students are provided the financial tools to enable them to successfully complete their education. IFS greatly appreciates the Higher Education Coordinating Commission focus on providing students, especially low income and underserved students, with a financial 'toolkit' to facilitate their future success, in the classroom and ultimately in communities throughout Oregon.

The work of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate has always centered on facilitating pathways to permit faculty to best serve the needs of our students. The collaborative nature of IFS, and the experience of our members, illustrates the cross-institutional partnership essential for Oregon to meet its 40-40-20 goals. Irrespective of the future of higher education governance, collaboration across Oregon's public higher education institutions holds the key to student success. In this spirit, the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate stands ready to partner with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and its subcommittees, to facilitate the future success of our most valuable resource: our students. Please feel free to contact IFS should you require any assistance or advice on the wide range of issues confronting the future of higher education in Oregon.

Thank you for your time, and I would be pleased to answer any queries you may have.