

IFS STATEMENT TO HECC – JANUARY 9, 2014

Chair Nesbitt, Executive Director Cannon, and members of the Commission:

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.

As the Higher Education Coordinating Commission contemplates fundamental changes to Oregon's education system, IFS is eager to assist in order to enable our faculty to better serve the needs of our students. As people who have devoted our lives to higher education, our faculty is focused on providing high quality education to Oregonians. Our students are Oregon's future.

In order to meet the numerous challenges confronting the future of higher education in Oregon, IFS recognizes an unprecedented reorganization of the system is necessary. The expertise and experience of faculty is essential to the success of the new system of educational governance in Oregon. IFS is eager to cooperate with HECC in all facets of this endeavor, including engaging in a dialogue on all issues related to shared governance and educational policy, now and in the future.

In order for IFS to provide an informed perspective on the numerous key issues confronting the future of higher education in Oregon, we need to have access to relevant information. It is our understanding HECC has commissioned a study by the Association of Governing Boards that will provide further details of the proposed *1 governance models for the Technical and Regional Universities, or TRUS. We respectfully request this information be shared with IFS in a timely manner. Far ranging shared governance and educational policy issues including curricular control, collective bargaining, promotion and tenure and shared services confronting HECC would benefit from the learned input of IFS. Given the weighty stakes confronting the future of higher education in Oregon, IFS looks forward to a long and productive partnership with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

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