

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/23, 3/4, 3/18, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Specifies goals of the Act. Authorizes Joint Boards of Education to study and report on converting some or all institutions of higher education to semester calendar; increasing student enrollment and success for rural residents; combining enrollment management functions into a single office for institutions whose enrollment is less than 7,500; and determining the financial viability of the OSU-Cascades Campus in Bend. Requires State Board of Higher Education to review each institution's mission statement and programs for inclusion of specified elements. Requires board to develop and implement a common admissions process; universal document imaging and electronic storage of documents; and, for institutions whose enrollment is less than 7,500, standardized, integrated, and common university management and student services software programs and processes. Establishes Oregon University Efficiency Savings Fund in the State Treasury. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Implementation of earlier study recommendations
- Common application process
- Transition to semester system throughout higher education in Oregon
- Combining Southern Oregon University with the University of Oregon
- Consolidation of Bend branch campus
- Appropriate body to provide institutional management
- Rate of inflation for costs in higher education
- Capacity for growth at regional institutions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure but for the emergency clause.

BACKGROUND: The Joint Boards of Education include the State Board of Higher Education and the State Board of Education. The Oregon University System (OUS) is comprised of seven universities. The following are often referred to as the regional universities: Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Southern Oregon University in Ashland, and Western Oregon University in Monmouth. The OUS as a whole has experienced strong enrollment growth over the past 11 years, with the number of students increasing from 62,847 in Fall 1996 to 82,249 in Fall 2007 – a 31 percent increase in students. This system-wide increase masks different enrollment patterns across the OUS, however. As a group, the four regional universities had a much lower than average rate of growth than the system as a whole (18 percent versus 31 percent). Over the past five years, the rate of growth has slowed for the OUS overall to a five percent increase system-wide, in part due to the three percent decline in enrollment at the regional universities.

One study indicated that increasing enrollment at the regional universities will be challenging unless: (1) the number of Oregon high school graduates enrolling at the regional universities increases, (2) the number of transfer students increases, or (3) the proportion of students attending college from underrepresented populations substantially increases.

3/30/2009 9:17:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.