

Chairs - Representative Komp and Senator Monroe – and Education Sub-Committee members –

Good morning, my name is Bob Klem and

I also live in Klamath Falls but I am proud to work at Oregon Tech serving students in my capacity as Campus Safety Officer for the last four years.

I would like to repeat Sophia's comments and reiterate SEIU's request for \$850 million in

general fund support for OUS's budgets. However my testimony will focus on areas that we feel need further investigation as this committee and the legislature search to find ways to provide some level of autonomy to the seven Universities but also require accountability, transparency and cost savings. It may seem a bit schizophrenic to be asking for more money and at the same time be reining in the OUS for limited accountability - but we think that these two things can go hand in hand.

SEIU Classified employees provide critical front-line services to help students in Oregon's seven universities. During this recent down economy there has been record enrollment. Out-of-control tuition increases have helped create a mountain of student debt, and have priced a college education out of reach for many of our members' kids and grandkids.

We believe there is waste in the higher education system which threatens resources that should be devoted directly to student services. These excesses also help to drive tuition increases that are unfair to working families and students.

We think that three things need to be instituted or denied to make OUS and the individual universities deliver more services for the money spent.

Staff Ratio Reporting (HB 2152)

We want to standardize annual reporting by OUS and community colleges to the Legislature on the ratios of supervisors to front line employees *and* administrators to students as a way to drill down on administrative bloat and save money. These reports should include numbers and ratios of supervisors to front line employees and administrators to students using PECBA standards of classification and provide info on compensation within faculty; classified and un-classified staff categories including part-time, temporary and graduate assistants. Reports should also compile ratios of staff members per student for each campus as well.

Increase Transparency and Reduce Expensive Contracting Out (HB 3116)

In 2009 House Bill 2500 created the Oregon Transparency website to provide public information on state budgets, spending, and performance measures. We need to expand the scope of the Oregon Transparency Commission to include the Oregon University System and thereby making more information available to the public. This would require the Oregon University System to complete feasibility studies before they decide to contract out services.

Opposition to Institutional/Local Governance Boards (HB 2149; SB 270)

We believe these Boards will not serve the public interest of our state; our members *nor* the faculty and students as they are being proposed. Various bills are proposing a pathway for individual University campuses to create institutional governance boards. The University of Oregon, Portland State University and now Oregon State University have expressed strong interest in such boards. We want to continue to go on record that these Local/institutional boards will cost the state loads of money. Instead of a unified OUS request to the legislature we believe individual universities will be in competition with the other universities for funding. Institutional Boards will cost somewhere between \$3 to \$8 million per year for each board as estimated by the State Board of Higher Education's Governance and Policy Committee in a March 16, 2012 presentation. And the proposals do not describe how "shared services" currently under OUS will be divided up and/or provided with Local Boards. The likelihood of duplication in these services is very high. (I reference services like, Payroll, Financial services, Legal and Risk Management, Insurance and others).

Legislative oversight is mandatory to maintain affordable and accountable public institutions of higher learning. We believe there are solutions we can work together on to provide world class services in the State of Oregon. Thank you very much for your time.