



PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

# American Association of University Professors

Promoting Quality Higher Education – An Investment in Oregon's Future

DATE: 3 February 2014

TO: Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Sen. Mark Haas, Chair

Sen. Tim Knobb

Sen. Lee Beyer

Sen. Jeff Kruse

Sen. Arnie Roblan

On January 31, 2014 the Executive Council of the American Association of University Professors at Portland State University adopted an **OPPOSE unless amended position on Senate Bill 1524**. We request that this letter be distributed to members of the Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development at its February 6, 2014 hearing.

SB 1524 "Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission to examine viability of program allowing students who graduated from high school in state to attend community college for specified period without paying tuition and fees."

We are not at all opposed to the State finding ways to allow students to attend college without paying tuition or fees and we are in favor of public policy that makes prioritizes State funding in that manner. We suggest including four-year institutions in the state within the coverage of this bill.

We believe that limiting the applicability to community colleges, however, will have an immediate and devastating impact on enrollment of Oregonians at Oregon's four year universities. It will have an immediate impact on four year institutions ability to continue to offer quality programs, and in the long term force those institutions to rely more heavily, if not completely, on out of state students for survival. The bill also unnecessarily pits these institutions against one another in unfair competition for shrinking and expensive student tuition dollars.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patricia A. Schechter

Chair, Legislative Committee, PSU-AAUP

[Patricia.A.Schechter@gmail.com](mailto:Patricia.A.Schechter@gmail.com)

PO Box 751  
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751  
Telephone: (503) 725-4414 Fax: (503) 725-8124  
Email: [aaup@psuaaup.net](mailto:aaup@psuaaup.net)  
<http://www.psuaaup.net>