

Chair Harker, Vice Chair Huffman and Vice Chair Gallegos and members of the committee.

For the record my name is Kevin Frazier. I am a former member of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon Senate, the legislative branch of the institution's recognized student government. Additionally, I am President of the College Democrats of Oregon, a newly formed organization with chapters at the University of Oregon, Willamette University, Pacific University and Portland State University. I am writing on behalf of the thousands of students in the Oregon University System who deserve a more affordable higher education. Furthermore, I am writing on behalf of thousands of students who deserve to have a part in the governance of their schools.

Increasing student representation on the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) will simultaneously provide the Commission with more perspectives on topics that directly impact Oregon students and ensure that students around the state have the opportunity to make their voice formally heard. Oregon is home to a diverse variety of higher education institutions. They are regionally, academically and demographically distinct. Governance in America is shared and thus, depends upon granting all involved parties a seat at the table. Please support provisions to enhance student representation on the HECC.

Similarly, undergraduate and graduate students merit a permanent seat on their institution's governing board. These nascent boards would be enhanced through allowing increased student participation. Given that the boards oversee issues regarding campus construction, the performance of the University's President and tuition changes, any period of time without adequate student representation is too long. Undergraduate and graduate students have significantly different experiences, opinions and suggestions. By creating designated seats for each category of student, governing boards will become better rounded and informed.

Due to my experience interacting with student leaders from around the state, I know there is plenty of student demand for an increased ability to participate in the governance process. Failing to create more student seat represents significant deadweight loss. Not only will boards lose valuable members but the opportunity to develop student leaders will also disappear. Please note that augmenting student representation will not disturb any of the board's procedural actions. Adding student representatives merely requires your willingness to give all involved parties a more proportional representation.

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions,

Kevin Frazier
President of the College Democrats of Oregon
Former ASUO Senator