

CHAIR ROBLAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

FOR THE RECORD MY NAME IS JEFF DENSE, PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY AND PRESIDENT OF THE INTERINSTITUTIONAL FACULTY SENATE (IFS). WE REPRESENT THE FACULTY OF OREGON'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES.

SENATE BILL 113 ADDRESSES SEVERAL OVERARCHING THEMES AFFECTING THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN OREGON INCLUDING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY. AS A NEW HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE, ALONG WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF AN OUTCOMES BASED FUNDING MODEL IS IMPLEMENTED, IT IS IMPERATIVE TAXPAYERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS ARE CONFIDENT THEIR INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION IS BEING WELL MANAGED.

SENATE BILL 113 PROVIDES AN EFFECTIVE REPORTING MECHANISM TO ADDRESS TWO RELATED ISSUES THAT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ACADEMIC QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN OREGON. FIRST, "ADMINISTRATIVE BLOAT", AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATORS AT EXPENSE OF TENURE TRACK FACULTY MEMBERS, NEGATIVELY IMPACTS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS, AS RESOURCES ARE REDIRECTED AWAY FROM THE CLASSROOM. SECOND, THE 'ADJUNCTIFICATION' OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN OREGON, THE MOVEMENT AWAY FROM HIRING FULL TIME, TENURE TRACK FACULTY TO PART-TIME ADJUNCTS, ADVERSELY AFFECTS ACADEMIC QUALITY, AND LESSENS OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN RESEARCH WITH WORLD-CLASS FACULTY. THESE TWO TRENDS, ARE AT THE HEART

IFS TESTIMONY TO SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 17, 2015

OF THE ACADEMIC ENTERPRISE AND THREATEN THE FUTURE OF OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE-OUR STUDENTS.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SENATE BILL 113, INCLUDING (1) CLASSIFICATION OF FACULTY MEMBERS WEARING MULTIPLE HATS, I.E., TEACHING FACULTY SERVING AS DEPARTMENT CHAIRS, (2) FACULTY WHOSE PRIMARY FOCUS IS RESEARCH, NOT TEACHING, AND (3) ADJUNCT FACULTY TEACHING ON MULTIPLE CAMPUSES, AN ESPECIALLY PREVALENT PRACTICE AT OREGON'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES. IFS BELIEVES THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION (HECC) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IFS, WILL BE ABLE TO ADDRESS AND SOLVE THESE ISSUES, IN A TIMELY AND PRODUCTIVE FASHION.

SENATE BILL 113 PROVIDES A BASELINE TO APPRISE STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE PARENTS OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS, OF FUTURE TRENDS IN STAFFING AT OREGON'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES. ADMINISTRATIVE BLOAT AND THE ADJUNCTIFICATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THREATEN ACADEMIC QUALITY AND STUDENT ACCESS ESSENTIAL TO THE STATE ACHIEVING ITS AMBITIOUS 40/40/20 GOAL. IFS URGES THE COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE A 'DO PASS' RECOMMENDATION ON SENATE BILL 113.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, AND I WOULD BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.