

## Oregon Public University Council

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To: Chair Tobias Read and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development

From: Oregon's Public Universities

Subject: Options for HB 2682

Date: March 9, 2015

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Oregon's public universities support the intent of HB2682.

All seven of the public universities have been working with our community college and K12 partners to reduce credit loss and leakage of credits, as students transition among education providers, whether it is the transition from high school to post-secondary, or among community colleges, or from a community college to a university.

HB2682 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to convene colleges and universities to develop clearer pathways for students as they transfer between the post-secondary systems. As the bill is written at introduction, it seeks a snapshot in time of the courses that will transfer among the systems. The bill is silent on the existing policy that all courses that are needed to meet the General Education requirements for all universities are specified through the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT) agreement. It is also silent on the status of ongoing work on this topic, including the hundreds of articulation agreements that have been negotiated among our institutions and college partners that are all available on the websites of both colleges and universities.

We respectfully suggest that the bill be amended to direct the HECC to convene a statewide work group comprised of Community College and University representatives to analyze and propose solutions for credit loss that students experience as they transfer from community colleges to universities. The work group could present its findings and recommendation to the HECC for review and consideration. The HECC may develop rules to enhance alignment and articulation that remove barriers and increase student success.

The public universities understand that the HECC's role is to coordinate this important work, and we are already working with the HECC to do so. In fact, last week on March 5<sup>th</sup>, the HECC convened all the Chief Academic Officers from all public colleges and universities to continue the work of streamlining transfer credits, improving standards for accelerated credit, coordinating admissions standards, and other academic quality and efficiency issues.

Eastern Oregon University  
President Jay Kenton

Oregon State University  
President Ed Ray

Southern Oregon University  
President Roy H. Saigo

Western Oregon University  
President Mark Weiss

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In addition, all of our institutions have hundreds of articulation agreements and curriculum or “degree maps” that show students what they need to take and when they need to take it to graduate on time and at lowest cost. Further, many of the community colleges and universities post comprehensive course articulation banks on the web so students, advisers, and others can see how courses will transfer from one institution to another.

We submit that this work is already well underway, and suggest that the language be modified to reflect the current level of collaboration, and if needed, direct the HECC to continue its coordinating role to accomplish the goals of this bill.

Another option is to direct the HECC to work on reducing loss of transfer credit through an amendment to ORS341.430 that describes the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, as proposed in HB2525. Both of these bills appear to be aimed at solving a similar problem.

Lita Colligan is available as a representative of the public universities if the committee wishes to explore the issue further. She can be reached at [lita.colligan@oit.edu](mailto:lita.colligan@oit.edu).

CC:

Ben Cannon, Executive Director, HECC

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