

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: HB2525

Date: March 13, 2015

Oregon's public universities support the intent of HB2525.

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 a student transitions 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, or between universities.

HB2525 amends the Transfer Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop standards related to transferability of credits and acceptance of test scores at Oregon's community colleges and public universities.

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. Last week on March 5th, the HECC convened the Chief Academic Officers from all public colleges and universities to continue the work of improving the standards for accelerated credit, increasing math options for students within the AAOT to remove perceived barriers for students, and utilizing Smarter Balanced Assessment scores in lieu of placement tests. The joint academic officers group will continue to be convened by the HECC to address the issues described in the ORS341.430, Transfer Student Bill of Rights.

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.

We submit that this work is 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.

Eastern Oregon University
President Jay Kenton

Oregon State University
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Southern Oregon University
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Specifically, in Section 1, subsection 3 (b), lines 20 – 22, we are seeking clarification that this section directs the HECC to work with colleges and universities to reduce credit loss when students transfer.

Oregon's Public Universities are making every attempt to transfer as many credits as possible from community colleges, however the most common problem expressed by students is that the credits transfer but do not apply to their major at the university. This is a result of students changing their majors or that the credits taken at the community college do not apply to their major at the university. One way to ensure better alignment for transfer of courses into university majors is to allow community colleges to offer associate degrees with majors.

In Section 1, subsection 3(c), lines 23-25, we suggest an amendment to remove this section, since the universities have already agreed to begin accepting Smarter Balanced Test Scores at the 3 and 4 level, in lieu of placement tests for students, as an indication of a student's coursework competency.

We also respectfully suggest that the bill be aligned with a similar request in HB2682 to avoid duplication of effort.

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.

CC:

Ben Cannon, Executive Director, HECC