

## IFS TESTIMONY HB 4010 2/10/2016

Chair Read and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Jeff Dense, President of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS). We are the duly elected representatives of Oregon's public universities.

IFS greatly appreciates the focus on accountability and transparency Representatives Whisnant and Nearman have brought forth in HB 4010. Given the historic reinvestment in higher education resulting from the Oregon State Legislature's 2015 session, it is important to ensure legislators, the public, and other stakeholders that public monies are duly accounted for.

While the provisions of HB 4010 are a step in the right direction, IFS respectfully submits the information contained in the annual reports mandated by HB 4010 may not be appropriate for inter-institutional comparative purposes. The mission, scope of academic programs, market forces, and a mélange of other factors make inter-institutional comparison of the range of fiscal indices highlighted in HB 4010 problematic at best. Despite this limitation, the provisions of HB 4010 create a sound baseline for evaluating an institution's financial commitment to its most valuable resource-its students-more transparent.

IFS suggests there may be another venue to accomplish the legislative intent of HB 4010. Passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2013, SB 270 serves as the statutory basis for the new higher education regime in Oregon. Under the provisions of this legislation, the Higher Education Coordinating Committee (HECC) is required to conduct annual evaluations of Oregon's public universities with institutional governing boards. Oregon Revised Statutes 352.065 (1) (a) duly note "The Legislative Assembly finds that the State of Oregon will benefit from having public universities with governing boards that provide transparency, public accountability and support for the university." IFS suggest the focus on transparency and accountability highlighted through the provisions of HB 4010 can be accomplished through the annual institutional evaluation process overseen by HECC. Given the nascent nature of this process (please note the final version of the annual institutional evaluation reports of the University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Portland State University are being received by HECC for the first time at their meeting tomorrow) IFS submits embedding the financial information highlighted in HB 4010 could be accomplished within this alternative annual institutional evaluation framework. Given the already weighty time constraints on members of the legislature (especially during the short session) the 'technical fix' embedded within HB 4010 could be achieved via this alternative framework with a minimum amount of time and effort.

Thank you for your time, and I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

