

BRYANT
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

March 2, 2016

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Tobias Read, Chair
House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation, and
Workforce Development
900 Court Street NE, H-286
Salem, OR 97075

Re: HECC

Dear Chairman Read and Members of the Committee:

My name is Neil Bryant and I am the Chair of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). I served on the old HECC and have served on the new HECC since its inception. It has been an interesting journey. The transition from an Oregon University System with a Chancellor to seven independent boards is both strategic and challenging. As you know, the HECC is the agency dedicated to all aspects of higher education and now includes community colleges, public universities, private colleges and universities, trade schools, the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the Oregon Promise, and programs for student access. The HECC also provides research, analysis and data for the institutions, the legislature, and the governor's office.

Recently, the HECC completed an updated strategic plan that demonstrates the HECC's evolution and maturity.

Because the HECC is new, there will be continuing discussions about the responsibility and authority. Our policy will continue to have an emphasis on open communications with all of the higher education community to further the goal of improving higher education in Oregon.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of representing central Oregon in the State Senate from 1993 to 2001. My principal responsibility was chairing the Judiciary Committee, but I also served on Rules, Ways & Means, and the Emergency Board during the four interims. After my term expired, I served and chaired an advisory committee for Oregon State University and provided contract services to the Higher Education Board and the Chancellor's Office until 2009. Currently, I continue to

{NRBHECC-00660610;1}

A legacy of service to our community.

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practice law in Bend, Oregon, where I have lived since 1973.

I look forward to your questions.

Sincerely,



Neil R. Bryant
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Encl. (as cited)
c: Ben Cannon