

From: Gilbert Dan
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2017 5:18 PM
To: Sen Courtney <Sen.PeterCourtney@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Questions regarding Senate Bill 8

President Courtney,

Senate Bill 8 provides implementing legislation that would permit a public university listed in ORS 352.002 and a community college to merge into one institution. In order for such a merger to occur, both the public university and the community college would need to agree to the merger and submit a detailed proposal for the merger to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The commission would then also have to approve the merger before it could occur. You asked whether a public university and a community college would be able to merge in the manner contemplated in Senate Bill 8 without legislation. The answer is no.

There are at least two main events that could occur under Senate Bill 8, but that could not occur without it. The first is a merger/consolidation of the administrations of the public university and the community college, with the merged entity likely having only one president and significantly fewer administrative officials than the two institutions have separately.

The second major event that could occur under Senate Bill 8, but not without it, is that students who do not live near a public university may be able to obtain a bachelor's degree without transferring schools and while continuing to live at home. In recent years, Oregon has made it easier for a student to transfer from a community college to a public university without significant loss of academic credit. However, a student at a community college still needs go through the transfer process in order to receive a bachelor's degree. Once accepted at a public university, the student would likely have to move to the area in which the public university is located (alternatively, the student may be able to take university courses over the Internet). In contrast, if a community college and public university merged under Senate Bill 8, a student attending the merged institution at what was previously a community college campus would be able to obtain a bachelor's degree without needing to either transfer schools or move.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

Dan

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