

## Testimony on SB207 to House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce

Good afternoon Chair Reardon, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Whisnant, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Sue Eveland; I serve as the Assistant Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management and the University Registrar for the University of Oregon and I am a longstanding member of the Statewide AP/IB Workgroup.

I am sorry to be unable to provide comments on SB207 in person on behalf of Oregon's Public Universities and the workgroup, so that I may offer my sincere support for the intent of this bill.

As you may know, a longstanding state-wide workgroup, initiated by OUS and JBAC more than a decade ago, now led by the HECC, follows an annual process of collaboration to review all new Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) curricula as well as any AP or IB curricula with significant curricular changes. The workgroup members and all of the Oregon postsecondary institutions very much support the awarding of college-level credit high school students who earn successful scores on these exams.

The workgroup includes representative colleagues from:

1. Oregon High Schools who offer the AP and/or IB Curricula
2. Oregon Community Colleges
3. Oregon Four-Year Public Universities
4. Higher Ed Coordinating Commission

Each year in a series of face-to-face and phone meetings, the workgroup lays out the plan for the year, reviews curricular materials from College Board and International Baccalaureate, then confers with discipline specific faculty at our home institutions, who also review the curricular materials in detail. Faculty, as per institutional policies that align with NWCCU's accreditation standards, determine the college level of the AP and IB curricula by comparing those curricula to our own institutional offerings.

The workgroup members then report back to the group, and consensus is reached as to

1. the subject area(s) for which credit is best aligned,
2. the minimum score required for the awarding of credit,
3. and the minimum and maximum number of credits awarded.

It is then incumbent on each post-secondary institution to create specific equivalencies to coursework in their institutional curriculum (i.e., one institution may equate the IB Astronomy curriculum to Astro 101; another institution may teach that course content under the subject of Physics, and thus may equate the IB Astronomy curriculum to one of their Physics course instead).

This collaborative process ensures that any student in the state will be awarded the same number of credits (as few as three and as many as 15), regardless of where that student enrolls in Oregon, while ensuring that the courses awarded are consistent with the degrees and programs of each individual institution.

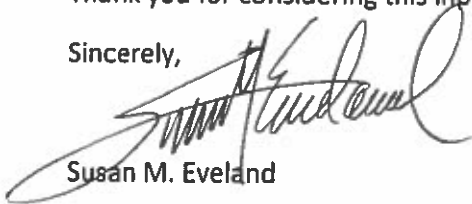
The workgroup has long appreciated the collaborative efforts of the work and is confident that high school AP and IB students are being consistently awarded the credit they have earned through these curricula. We believe this longstanding collaboration achieves agreement among the post-secondary institutions and ensures transferability and applicability of credits at our intuitions.

Senate Bill 207 prescribes a definition of a successful grade as a score of three or higher. Currently, many of the AP exams carry credit with a score of three; only in specialized courses or programs does the workgroup and our faculties believe a score of four is warranted for credit award and applicability to degree programs. We don't believe that specifying scores in the statute is advisable or necessary; and as the testing procedures and metrics have been known to change over time, change in the statute would also be required.

We ask that you reconsider specifying scores in Senate Bill 207 and suggest that your constituents – students, parents, high school faculty and advisors – refer to the HECC's AP/IB Policy.

Thank you for considering this input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan M. Eveland", written over a large, light-colored scribble or mark.

Susan M. Eveland