



Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 5505 and the University of Oregon's request for a *University Classroom and Faculty Office Building*. The approximately 105,000 gross square feet building is critical to meeting the strategic priorities of the university and directly supports the goals of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's (HECC) 2016 Strategic Plan by providing ~1,700 new classroom seats and ~90 faculty offices within the university's academic core.

The institutional priorities established by President Michael Schill in the 2016-2021 Strategic Framework for the University of Oregon are:

1. Promote and enhance student access, retention, and success.
2. Enhance the impact of research, scholarship, creative inquiry, and graduate education.
3. Attract and retain high quality, diverse students, faculty, and staff.
4. Enhance physical, administrative, and IT infrastructure to ensure academic excellence.

The *University Classroom and Faculty Office Building* is integral to achieving these priorities. As envisioned, the building includes flexible, technologically enhanced classrooms to serve class sizes from 50 to 350 students. The addition of ~1,700 new seats will enhance student access and support improved four-year graduation rates by providing the capacity to offer more classes and relieve scheduling log jams created by current classroom shortages. This number of classroom seats returns the university to a ratio of seats to students seen as ideal for promoting the most efficient scheduling of classes and also builds enrollment capacity for the future.

The building will also provide significant increases in faculty offices and creates the opportunity to co-locate academic units and promote collaboration and new research opportunities. In support of the institutional priorities, the university has set an ambitious goal to hire 80-100 tenure-track faculty. This building provides ~90 new offices to address this strategy, properly houses existing faculty in inadequate spaces, and provides capacity for the future. Currently, many professors are housed in offices that do not meet minimum space requirements and/or lack modern heating, air conditioning and lighting systems. These new offices will improve the infrastructure support to those faculty, promote new collaborations, and increase the likelihood of retaining high quality faculty.

In summary, the *University Classroom and Faculty Office Building* is essential to meeting the university's strategic priorities and directly supports the state's postsecondary goals of expanding access and promoting student success. Thank you again for the opportunity to write in support of this important project.

Sincerely,

Scott Coltrane
Provost and Senior Vice President

Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs

Provost 202 Johnson Hall | Academic Affairs 207 Johnson Hall

1258 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1258

provost 541-346-3186 | academic affairs 541-346-3081 | fax 541-346-2023 provost.uoregon.edu

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