



Oregon Student Association

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Alonso Leon & Helt, and Members of the Committee,

Good Afternoon. My name is Felicia Dickinson and I am a student at Western Oregon University, as well as a Cabinet member of the Associated Students of Western Oregon University. I write this testimony in support of HB 3280, which grants the two student representatives voting rights as well as adding a third graduate student position to achieve balance on the committee.

Student Autotomy is a vital issue lacking in true representation on campuses throughout Oregon. The administrations of college campuses show support for initiatives that students need, such as Open Educational Resources and investments towards expanding STEM programs, but often lack the creative implementation to make these ideas a reality. With student representatives being part of the process, innovation can truly happen and generations can learn from each other on how to make education an immersive experience. Students can bring decisions back to their campuses and get input from fellow students on what can be done, input that is valuable to leadership no matter the level. I can speak from experience that collaboration between decision makers and students is a beneficial exercise. I myself sit on councils that have a mix of faculty, staff and students. Student perspective gives faculty and staff alternatives and a point of view that they may not always have access to and are often grateful for. I have testified to the HECC on Open Educational Resources and am thankful for their support in giving funding to OER's, as well as advocating for their continued use. If we give students the chance to enact change regarding their own education, it will encourage them to keep being involved in their communities and aim even higher to make Oregon the very best it can be.

To conclude, students and lawmakers want the same thing when it comes to the HECC: accessibility to education that is an investment Oregon makes in its citizens. By including student representatives on the HECC, the message sent is that diverse voices lead to solutions that benefit the many, not the few. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HB 3280.

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | www.orstudents.org | @OregonStudents