

Oregon Student Association

Greetings Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee,

HB 3280 is crucial to the future of Oregon students. Although students currently have seats at the HECC table, it is important to also give them roles that have direct impact to the decisions that are being made, which could be done through allowing them to vote. My experience in contributing to the conversation on higher education includes participating in Western Oregon University's (WOU) Tuition & Fee Advisory Committee (TFAC) and University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC) from 2017-2019. I am aware that my university does a better job than most in allowing students to meaningfully engage in decisions around policy and affordability issues. Being able to participate in these conversations as a student should be like this across campuses in the state along with in the HECC.

Students are more than capable to make decisions for the betterment of higher education in the state of Oregon. If we are allowed to vote in major elections and decide the direction of our lives at this age, there is no reason to not allow students to participate in voting on issues that impact higher education.

Thanks,

Ailyn Angel