



**Faculty Senate Office**

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February 5, 2026

The Honorable Zach Hudson, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 4124

I am writing to comment on Oregon House Bill 4124, which would direct the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to study and develop recommendations for a “viable and superior institutional framework” in post-secondary education. I am in year seventeen as a faculty member at Oregon State University, and I am writing this letter in my capacity as President of OSU’s Faculty Senate.

Like others have stated, I am deeply concerned with the state of higher education in Oregon. As we consider how to address immediate difficulties, such as the financial exigency of Southern Oregon University, I appreciate the spirit of Bill 4124 in its desire to also look for longer term solutions. Already you have heard several testimonials who have offered constructive commentary on the bill, including one from OSU Provost Roy Haggerty. I wish to offer two perspectives on the bill from my point of view as Faculty Senate President.

First, Bill 4124 establishes a narrative (on lines 10-13) that market competition among institutions is to blame for the current state of affairs in Oregon. This is a reductive statement that does not acknowledge other factors, including low levels of financial support for higher education in the state. Framing the legislation in this way risks undermining the credibility of any study the HECC might conduct, burdening it with a foregone conclusion. I recommend revising or deleting these lines, if the study itself is to be taken seriously as an effort in good faith.

Second, Bill 4124 states that the HECC study may evaluate and make recommendations on the development of academic programs, and on instances of “unnecessary program duplication across post-secondary education institutions,” among other subjects. OSU already has robust processes to evaluate matters of curriculum, including the routine assessment of academic programs. We do this within a shared governance framework that includes university administrators, subject matter experts, and an elected Faculty Senate. I want to discourage you from taking any course of action that would result in the institution’s loss of control over its own academic programs or other curriculum matters.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Respectfully,

Jacob Darwin Hamblin  
Faculty Senate President