

Docket Item:

2017-19 Public University Support Fund Investments

Summary:

The Public University Support Fund (PUSF) is a component of the HECC's Agency Request Budget (ARB), representing the state's largest investment in the operation of the seven public universities. In development of the ARB, a specific level of PUSF investment must be determined. This docket item provides context for a specific level of PUSF investment.

Docket Material:

The Public University Support Fund (PUSF) represents the state's General Fund contribution to the operation of Oregon's seven public universities' education, student support, research, and public service programs. Allocated between the institutions by the Student Success and Completion Model (SSCM), the 2015-17 PUSF investment represents \$665 million in state General Fund.

Beginning in February 2016, HECC staff, in conjunction with the universities, created draft budget guidance to gather cost data and information on additional potential investments, or reductions, in services corresponding to several PUSF funding levels. Those funding levels varied from \$616 million to \$943.4 million.

The baseline calculation for each of these scenarios is the cost of providing 2015-16 service levels to an equivalent number of students during the 2017-19 biennium. While the universities have established \$765 million as a minimum level of 2017-19 PUSF, \$900 million—a \$235 million increase over 2015-17—was identified as the state investment required to fully cover both state and student shares of cost increases. HECC budget guidance further requested consideration of an additional 20% of that increment—amounting to approximately \$43.4 million—and the investments such a PUSF level would enable. The educational, student support, and affordability investments likely to result from this \$943.4 million PUSF are discussed in this document, as well as the projected SSCM allocation of this funding for the 2017-19 biennium.

Each of the universities indicated progress could be made in improving affordability, access, success, and quality with a PUSF of \$943.4 million. Specific proposed initiatives or program expansions at each institution include:

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EOU	Enhance tuition remissions to increase access for rural, minority and first-generation students.
	Funding for student completion initiatives to increase graduation rates for on-campus, online and on-site programs.
	Build a college-going culture through Eastern Promise Collaborative with grade schools through high school and post-secondary education.
OIT	Expand personalized resources for high school and first-year university students that provide mentoring and support in transitioning to college, including a student texting program that eliminates barriers to accessing necessary academic supports.
	Increase academic preparation and completion of high school students in STEM fields through university-led STEM Hub teacher professional development, industry volunteers in classrooms, and accelerated college credit.
	Increase degree completion through “Completer” scholarships for successful students who are close to graduation but at risk of dropping out due to financial hardship.
OSU	Increase financial support to bridge gaps that become barriers for students to graduate on time.
	Increase advising capacity to hire additional advisors who specialize in retention, graduation, and career development, including a “one-stop” support center for transfer students.
	Increase capacity for student participation in experiential learning, including financial support needed for students to participate.
PSU	Create programs and services in conjunction with community colleges and other institutions to ensure clear pathways for transfer students.
	Increase advising capacity, revitalize advising systems, improve the visibility of student support services and preparation for career placement.
	Provide flexible degrees to accommodate the diverse needs of students and develop academic programs that prepare students for competitive advantage in life and career.
SOU	Continue expansion of programs targeting Hispanic students, providing them with school based programs, including mentors, academic assistance and post –secondary encouragement for this historically underserved population.
	Work with regional high schools to implement accelerated and low cost degree programs for first generation, low-income, under-represented, rural students.
	Engage faculty in collaborative efforts that focus on intentional course design with respect to curriculum, assessment, and effective pedagogy for general education/gateway courses with high failure rates.
UO	Further investments in PathwayOregon and graduation assistance grants.
	Increase the number of tenure-track and research faculty with an emphasis on STEM.
	Allocate funding toward successful student transitions, including second-stage advising services, to ensure retention and completion.
WOU	Increase need-based scholarships to under-served students.
	Increase availability of academic, financial and persistence counseling for student degree completion.
	Expand student readiness programming for pre-college outreach.

Since PUSF is allocated using the SSCM funding model, the resources available to a given institution for use in new or expanded programming may be projected for the 2017-19 biennium. The following table presents the increase in funding each institution is projected to receive at the \$765 million PUSF level compared to a \$943.4 million PUSF.

Staff Recommendation:

Discussion only.



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2017-19 \$943.4M PUSF compared to 2015-17 PUSF					Percent Increases		
	2015-17	\$765M PUSF	Incremental funding from \$943.4M PUSF	Total increase over 2015-17	\$765M	+\$178.4M	Total (\$943.4M)
EOU	\$ 38,560,034	\$ 3,104,646	\$ 9,323,738	\$ 12,428,384	8.05%	24.18%	32.23%
OIT	\$ 48,088,461	\$ 4,479,074	\$ 11,445,900	\$ 15,924,974	9.31%	23.80%	33.12%
OSU	\$ 207,484,604	\$ 31,465,546	\$ 56,848,806	\$ 88,314,352	15.17%	27.40%	42.56%
PSU	\$ 157,617,218	\$ 32,117,531	\$ 44,032,749	\$ 76,150,280	20.38%	27.94%	48.31%
SOU	\$ 40,901,942	\$ 2,594,349	\$ 9,937,352	\$ 12,531,701	6.34%	24.30%	30.64%
UO	\$ 127,351,683	\$ 20,324,905	\$ 35,330,672	\$ 55,655,577	15.96%	27.74%	43.70%
WOU	\$ 44,996,058	\$ 5,913,950	\$ 11,480,782	\$ 17,394,732	13.14%	25.52%	38.66%
Total	\$ 665,000,000	\$ 100,000,000	\$ 178,400,000	\$ 278,400,000	15.04%	26.83%	41.86%