KATE BROWN
Governor

June 7, 2016

Higher Education Coordinating Commission
775 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your service to our state and your expertise and leadership in higher education. As members of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), you serve the important role of ensuring that our state meets its 40/40/20 goal by advancing higher education priorities.

I write to you to provide guidance for your review of the 2017-2019 public university capital budget requests. As you are aware, state-funded debt is a limited resource and as a result, not all projects will be funded in the 2017-2019 biennium. The recent high-water mark for public university capital requests was approximately $250 million allocated for the 2015-2017 biennium. As such, I direct you to take that information into consideration as you develop your rankings. In addition, I ask that you ensure that your recommendations prioritize investments that facilitate the ability for underrepresented, first generation and low income students and students from rural areas of the state to pursue their degrees.

It is my expectation that public universities submit all capital requests for which they intend to seek state funding to the HECC for its review and ranking. HECC bears the responsibility for reviewing university capital requests, and I reiterate my support for HECC to fulfill its statutory authority.

Finally, in the longer-term, I look forward to working with the HECC on a long-range planning process that will take a broad view of higher education investments – both operating and capital investments – as we continue along the path to meet the state's 40/40/20 goal.

Thank you for your commitment to the state. I look forward to reviewing your recommendations for public university capital projects.

Sincerely,

Kate Brown

Governor Kate Brown

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