



Docket Item:

Legislative Update - April 2017.

HECC Agency Bills:

Bill	Subject	Status
SB 54	University evaluations	Public Hearing 4/13 Work Session 4/18 Will be amended to clean-up statutes related to higher education re organization
SB 55	Oregon Promise	Signed by the Governor
SB 1032	Oregon Promise	Passed Senate Education on 4/6 In joint Ways and Means Will receive additional amendments as needed based on funding level
HB 2311	40-40-20	Passed House Higher Education Committee on 4/6 On House Floor
HB 2312	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	Passed House on 2/15 In Senate Education Committee
HB 2313	Accelerated College Credit Programs	Work session 4/13 or 4/18 Will be amended to require the task force to examine how accelerated learning credits transfer
HB 2314	Agency Catch-All Bill	Passed House on 3/21 In Senate Education Committee

Oregon Promise:

As expected, a number of legislative proposals were introduced to make modifications to the Oregon Promise Program. Most of these changes were anticipated based on questions and comments raised by members of the legislature during the lead up to the 2017 session. Proposals were introduced to both allow National Guard Members to access the program and allow students completing an outside service or educational

experience prior to college enrollment to retain eligibility for the program at the conclusion of their service.

Senate Bill 1032 accommodates the second category of students by allowing the HECC to establish, by rule, a waiver process that accounts for outside service or educational experiences a student may enter prior to enrolling in community college. In addition, a waiver will be established to allow students that experience a significant hardship to retain their eligibility to participate in the program. These changes have a negligible effect on the administration of the program, and on the number of students participating in the program, but make the program more inclusive of the target population.

On National Guard eligibility, HECC has worked with the sponsor of the bill and other interested members to refine legislation such that guard members will only remain eligible for the program until six-months after the completion of basic training - mirroring the window that exists for high school and high school equivalency students, who also have six months to enroll.

Transfer from Community College to Public University:

HECC staff, including Patrick Crane, Veronica Dujon, and Sean Pollack, participated in a three-week workgroup sponsored by Rep. Mark Johnson and Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon to draft legislation to improve student transfer outcomes by creating a foundational core of coursework, onto which individual major pathways that will be developed that will be accepted for transfer from any community college to and public university that offers the major.

If a student completes the courses in the foundation core and on the pathway with sufficient academic attainment and graduates from a community college, the legislation will specify the student will be a junior within their major upon transfer to an Oregon public university.

Other Recent Activity:

- HB 2457, which clarifies HECC's role in handling student complaints at private, non-profit institutions, passed the House Higher Education Committee. This bill contains a provision that allows the HECC investigation process to remain confidential. This confidentiality provision was not conferred to the HECC at its

creation, which gave HECC a unique status amongst agencies that receive and investigate complaints.

- Kyle Thomas testified on how the Commission utilizes the state 40-40-20 goal, and its importance as a guiding influence in the Commission's work. This testimony was in response to HB 2587, that would have eliminated the state goal, and replaced it with language that was more aspirational in nature. The bill is not scheduled for a vote.
- Thomas also submitted testimony on HB 2867, which would have required instructors of accelerated learning credit programs to have a minimum of 27 graduate-level credits in the subject area of their assigned course. The testimony described the work of the Accelerated Learning Committee in 2013, which examined this issue and recommended against this requirement as the sole measure of teacher qualification. The bill is not scheduled for a vote.
- HECC staff also worked to clarify numerous pieces of legislation through amendment that, though the policy may have been sound, the mechanisms around implementation were not aligned with current staff capacity or administrative capability.