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May 23, 2017

Sent via US Mail & Email

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Neil Bryant
Chair
Higher Education Coordinating Commission
255 Capitol Street NE, 3d Floor
Salem, OR 97310

Ben Cannon
Executive Director
Higher Education Coordinating Commission
255 Capitol Street NE, 3d Floor
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Neil and Ben:

Thank you for scheduling a special meeting of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to reconsider tuition increases from Portland State University and the University of Oregon. I write to provide additional information prior to your meeting.

The Portland State University Board of Trustees convened a special meeting this morning and approved a resolution amending PSU's original tuition proposal. The new resolution is enclosed. The resolution amends the previous tuition resolution by detailing the manner in which PSU's resident undergraduate tuition increase will be reduced in the event that the State of Oregon appropriates funding to the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) in addition to the funding included in the Governor's recommended budget. PSU's tuition proposal, as amended, now includes a one-percent decrease in the percentage increase to the resident undergraduate base tuition rate for each additional \$20 million appropriated to the PUSF for the biennium. Portland State University respectfully requests that the HECC reconsider and approve the University's tuition proposal as amended.

I am also aware that some commissioners have inquired regarding the involvement of students in the development of our tuition proposal. While acknowledging that this process is one that could always be adjusted and improved, I want to again share some of the details of the process utilized this year. The tuition proposal taken to our Board—and ultimately approved unanimously—was the culmination of a process that took months and involved many. The Student Budget Advisory Committee, a committee that includes students appointed by the elected student government, is charged with providing input into the tuition recommendation. There were several individual

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meetings with the student members of the SBAC, as well as meetings of the full committee. The student members of the SBAC provided input and were invited to talk with the Board's Finance and Administration Committee prior to the Committee's consideration of the proposal. A meeting was also held with the Student Senate and, with input from students, the University organized a campus-wide town hall meeting regarding tuition and the University's budget. In addition, the Board held a special Board meeting with the sole agenda item being small group discussions with students about topics such as college affordability and there was an opportunity for open comment at the Board's April meeting. In total, I feel that there were meaningful opportunities for engagement by a broad and diverse group of students in this process. Of course, this process could always be better, and we look forward to discussions with next year's student leaders regarding ways that the process can be improved next year. We are committed to working with students and their elected student leaders on important issues such as tuition.

We hope that the Legislature and Governor will provide additional State funding so the tuition increase on our resident undergraduate students can be reduced as provided in this resolution. Our Board, faculty, student leaders and others will continue to advocate strongly for investments in higher education and we greatly appreciate your support in that effort.

Again, thank you for your reconsideration of PSU's amended tuition proposal and for your continued dedication to strengthening and improving higher education and student outcomes in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wim Wiewel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wim Wiewel
President

cc: Board of Trustees

**RESOLUTION AMENDING 2017-18 TUITION RATES
IN THE EVENT OF ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING**

**Approved by the Board
May 23, 2017**

BACKGROUND

1. On April 11, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved a Resolution Concerning 2017-18 Tuition Rates (the "Tuition Resolution"). The Tuition Resolution established, among other things, a resident undergraduate base tuition rate for the 2017-18 academic year and 2018 summer term of \$170 per credit, which is an increase of \$14 per credit or 8.97% over the previous year. Together with mandatory enrollment fees, the overall increase for a resident undergraduate student taking 15 credits per term is 8.31%. Under ORS 352.102, an increase in tuition and mandatory enrollment fees for resident undergraduate students greater than 5% annually requires approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission or the Legislative Assembly.
2. The budget assumptions used by the Board when setting 2017-18 tuition rates included a state appropriation to the Public University Support Fund for the 2017-19 biennium of \$667 million, which was the amount provided in the Governor's Recommended Budget.
3. The Board stated, on the record, that it would revise the approved resident undergraduate tuition rate downward in the event of significantly greater funding from the State of Oregon. The Board has a history of reducing resident undergraduate tuition increases when the State of Oregon provides greater funding than had been assumed in the budgeting process. In 2015, Portland State University was the only Oregon public university to reduce its tuition increase after the State of Oregon provided enhanced funding to the Public University Support Fund.
4. The Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the University to amend the Tuition Resolution to provide in detail the manner in which the tuition increase will be decreased in the event of additional State of Oregon funding to the Public University Support Fund and to submit the revised Tuition Resolution to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for consideration and approval.
5. The Board believes it is prudent to reduce the increase in tuition for resident undergraduate students by one percent for every additional \$20 million dollars appropriated to the Public University Support Fund for the 2017-19 biennium.

RESOLUTION

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees, that the Tuition Resolution be amended to include the following additional section:

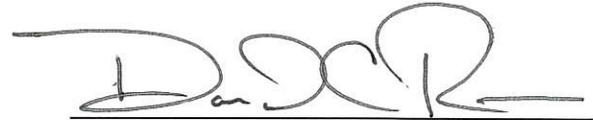
1. The increase in resident undergraduate base tuition shall be reduced based on the unrestricted State of Oregon appropriation to the Public University Support Fund for the 2017-19 biennium in the following increments:

Unrestricted State of Oregon Appropriation to the Public University Support Fund for 2017-19 Biennium	Percent Increase in Resident Undergraduate Base Tuition
Less than \$687 million	8.97%
\$687 million or more, but less than \$707 million	7.97%
\$707 million or more, but less than \$727 million	6.97%
\$727 million or more, but less than \$747 million	5.97%
\$747 million or more	4.97%

The actual increase in resident undergraduate base tuition per credit hour shall be rounded to the next whole dollar.

All other tuition rates and mandatory enrollment fees shall remain unchanged.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 23, 2017



Secretary to the Board