

Docket Item:

University Capital Ranking Process and Rubric

Summary:

As part of its biennial budget development process, ORS 352.089 (5) requires:

A public university listed in ORS 352.002 that wishes to request the issuance of state bonds, including a university with a governing board that elects to remain eligible to receive proceeds of state bonds under ORS 352.402, must make a request to this effect to an office designated by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission as being responsible for university coordination. The office shall establish a process for reviewing the request to issue state bonds and submit the request to the commission. The commission shall decide whether, and in what manner, to make a request for the issuance of state bonds to the Legislative Assembly.

In recognition of the limited resource nature of state-funded debt service, a prioritization process that includes a scoring rubric has been established for projects for which state-funded debt service or appropriations are sought. Once approved by the Commission that rubric is applied to projects eligible for prioritization, resulting in a rank-ordered list of university capital requests. This staff-generated priority list contributes to Commission deliberation on the final prioritized project roster that is advanced to the Governor as part of the HECC Agency Request Budget (ARB).

Staff is proposing a similar process for the prioritization of projects that may be included in the 2019-21 ARB. This process would, at a minimum, include the following elements:

- Commission: Review of proposed capital policy and rubric
- Commission: Adoption of the capital policy and related project scoring rubric.
- Universities: Development and submittal of capital requests according to guidance provided by HECC staff.

- University Presidents, or their designees: Collectively place projects in tiers of priority. Tier 1 represents those projects to be considered by the HECC for prioritization.
- HECC staff: Completes site visits at each university to ensure accuracy and completeness of capital request submissions.
- HECC staff: Applies scoring rubric to project requests, assembling a prioritized list for Commission consideration.
- Commission: Considers staff-prioritized list and adopts a final project priority and project roster for submission with the ARB.

Staff is proposing several updates to the scoring rubric to more clearly establish scoring criteria. These updates include:

- Section F - Staff proposes repurposing this section to measure the focus of each project on student success, with special emphasis on underserved populations that are similarly emphasized in the Student Success and Completion Model.
- Section H - Staff proposes greater specificity on the use of this section to include evaluation of the project's contributions, if any, to State goals that are not otherwise incorporated into the rubric. Projects receiving credit in this section may contribute to the educational, civic, cultural, and economic development goals of the State in a way that is not immediately connected to the HECC Priorities identified in Section B of the rubric.

In addition to these proposed changes, staff will issue project submittal guidelines designed to better organize project information and facilitate clearer and more efficient application of the scoring rubric. Staff views this as an opportunity to improve the clarity and efficiency of the scoring process, not as an attempt to limit or otherwise modify the nature of information contained in the project submittals relative to past prioritization cycles.

Docket Material (Attached):

- Capital Prioritization Policy Statement
- Draft Capital Prioritization Scoring Rubric
- Draft Capital budget project information request

Staff Recommendation:

This item is for discussion purposes only. Staff will incorporate any Commission feedback into revised drafts of the attached materials for presentation and consideration at the January HECC meeting.