



**Docket Item:**

SOU and EOU Conditions Reports

**Summary:**

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is responsible for determining whether Southern Oregon University and Eastern Oregon University have satisfied the conditions that the State Board of Higher Education established for them upon the creation of institutional governing boards in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

In late 2015, the HECC evaluated SOU and EOU's progress towards meeting the conditions and issued interim reports and recommendations (see Background Material, below).

On December 14, 2017, SOU and EOU's Chairs, Presidents, and other institutional leaders testified to the HECC that their institutions have satisfied the conditions. On December 28 and 29, SOU and EOU submitted their final written reports to Commission staff. Those reports are attached.

Ultimately, the HECC must evaluate whether the institutions demonstrate a clear focus and durable niche within the portfolio of public higher education assets in Oregon. While not serving as a single decision-point, an analysis of financial data must also inform the HECC determination, with reference to accepted financial standards and best practices, institutional peer data, and other Oregon public universities. Under the law, the Commission must notify the Governor, the Legislative Assembly, and the institutional governing boards about its determination of whether the conditions have been met.

HECC staff is currently reviewing the submissions and will provide a recommendation to the Commission's February meeting about whether the institutions have satisfied the conditions.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 168a, Chapter 768, Oregon Laws 2013 (as amended by SB 493 (2015))

**Background Material:**

Original conditions established by the State Board of Higher Education:

<http://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Documents/Commission/COMMISSION/2017/12-Dec-14-17/8.1b%20OSBHE-EOUSOUConditions%20-%20May%202014.pdf>

HECC's 2015 (Interim) Condition Evaluations:

[http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd/Documents/HECC/2016%20Full%20Commission%20Meetings/01\\_Jan-14-16/9.0%20b.SouthernOregonUniversityConditions%20ResponseLetterUpdated.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd/Documents/HECC/2016%20Full%20Commission%20Meetings/01_Jan-14-16/9.0%20b.SouthernOregonUniversityConditions%20ResponseLetterUpdated.pdf)

[http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd/Documents/HECC/2016%20Full%20Commission%20Meetings/01\\_Jan-14-16/9.0a.EasternOregonUniversityConditionsResponseLetter.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd/Documents/HECC/2016%20Full%20Commission%20Meetings/01_Jan-14-16/9.0a.EasternOregonUniversityConditionsResponseLetter.pdf)

SOU and EOU final reports: Attached

**Staff Recommendation:**

Informational item only. Staff will use the Commission's questions and feedback to develop a staff recommendation about whether SOU and EOU have met or not met the conditions.