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August 11, 2021

Larry Roper, Chair  
Ben Cannon, Executive Director  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission  
3325 25th Street SE  
Salem, OR 97302

RE: SSCM

Dear Chair Roper, Director Cannon and Commissioners:

Portland State University supports the recommendations of the HECC staff to adopt a one-year hold harmless approach to implementation of the updated SSCM rulemaking. The changes inevitably impact institutions differently and the proposed approach mitigates those impacts over the first year of the biennium.

We appreciate the commission's work on the formula. As you know, the revised SSCM is focused on statewide student outcomes. Key among the changes in the revised model are increased support for historically underserved students, a more accurate accounting for transfer students, and addressing challenges in the original formula that were universally identified. These are important and needed updates that reflect a better understanding of our commitment to underserved populations and changes in the demographics of our institutions.

The revised model represents nearly two years of work. The review process was transparent and included broad representation. Additionally, the proposal and subsequent rulemaking was extensively discussed by the commissioners. The recommendation of the commission staff sustains the changes adopted and addresses the immediate financial impacts created by the new rule. PSU urges the commission to adopt the recommendation.

Sincerely,



Stephen Percy  
President