



EASTERN OREGON  
UNIVERSITY

November 9, 2022

Terry Cross  
Chair  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission  
32245 25th Street SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

Delivered via email: [info.HECC@state.or.us](mailto:info.HECC@state.or.us)

Dear Chair Cross,

This week at the full commission meeting you will be hearing from staff about the Student Success and Completion Model and a recommendation for adoption of edited administrative rules. The edits as proposed in the rules, specifically regarding the base payment and the funding that is allocated to small institutions, would allow the current funding allocation to remain unchanged.

EOU is supportive of the proposed edits, and of not making sweeping changes to the funding allocation. Should the proposed edits not be adopted, and the calculation methodology changed, EOU could potentially lose in excess of \$2.5M annually.

This kind of funding reduction, as you can imagine, would be devastating to our university. Making sudden changes in this manner would up-end the continuity and integrity of the funding model workgroup's process, and would greatly and negatively impact the students of EOU.

In the bigger picture, the formula, even as it is currently being implemented, is especially challenging for Eastern. It does not fully address or support our rural mission, our geography, or the students we serve. As demonstrated in the NCHEMS report, the public universities in Oregon cannot continue to successfully serve students and prepare a workforce for Oregon without additional investment in higher education.

EOU plans to continue engaging the HECC and others in understanding the challenges of the current model, as well as the impact on per student funding at EOU since the model's inception.

For EOU specifically, additional investment in the current model actually equates to very little investment in our university. For example, of the additional \$10 million the public universities received in the last legislative session, year over year, *EOU received a net six thousand, five hundred dollars.*

We appreciate the efforts of Ben Cannon and Jim Pinkard through this process, including their willingness to understand the complex situation we find ourselves in, along with the rest of the universities.

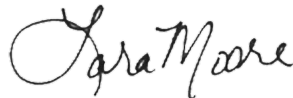
We also appreciate the written testimony provided by the presidents of Western Oregon University, Southern Oregon University, and the Oregon Institute of Technology that echoes our testimony as well. We welcome a discussion on the model and its impacts to Oregon's technical and regional universities.

I would also like to thank you, Chair Cross, for your time and concerns around this issue and your desire to address the real need for funding models that truly support why we are all here: access and opportunity for the students we serve.

Sincerely,



Richard Chaves  
Co-President



Lara Moore  
Co-President