

March 14, 2018

Chair Neil Bryant
Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Chair Bryant,

I am the chair of PSU Advocates which is a network of alumni, students, faculty, parents and friends who share a commitment to higher education and to Portland State University. We volunteer our time to communicate and promote the goals, needs, accomplishments and importance of supporting an outstanding teaching and research institution in Portland. We are writing you today to support the proposed changes to the "University Capital Project – Prioritization Scoring Rubric" (rubric) being considered by the Commission.

The current rubric was built through a collaborative process with university and commission staff. The proposed modest change strengthens the emphasis on student success while preserving the fundamental values identified through that collaboration. Any major modifications to the existing rubric should be considered using an inclusive and thoughtful process that allows for differing opinions and perspectives from each university to be heard and considered, as was done in the past.

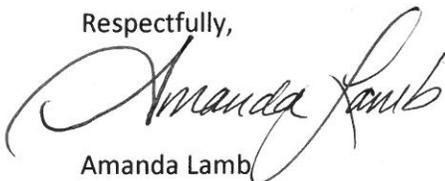
Using the rubric, the HECC scored and advanced to the governor a wide range of capital improvements and investments in 2015-17 and 2017-19. Subsequently, the legislature made significant and needed investments in universities' campuses. This balanced approach is effectively serving students and communities across Oregon.

At PSU, it is allowing us to better serve first generation students by beginning to close the gap between available educational space and decades of increased enrollment. It is addressing workforce needs by allowing PSU to open a new building for the next generation of diverse, well-prepared teachers and health professionals. These investments are modernizing our buildings and giving faculty and students the tools to teach and learn in ways consistent with today's best pedagogical practices.

In sum, the current rubric works. It will benefit from the proposed minor adjustment, but significant changes should not be undertaken without a collaborative, inclusive process.

The PSU Advocates thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or are interested in visiting Portland State University, we would happily work with you or any commissioners to set up a time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Lamb". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Amanda Lamb
PSU Advocates Chair
On Behalf of PSU Advocates

CC: PSU Government Relations – Kevin Neely and Alyson Kraus, PSU Alumni Executive Director – Tom Bull, & PSU VPFA – Kevin Reynolds.