



October 9, 2019

Chair Rives, Vice-Chair Rowe, and Commissioners:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the students of Portland State University to address the proposed Public University Capital Rubric being considered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. I strongly urge you to modify the proposed revisions for Section F, Leveraging Institutional Resources and create a third tier that recognizes the unique position of PSU among Oregon's public universities. Portland State should NOT be included with Oregon State and the University of Oregon.

As you are aware, Portland State serves a different population than UO and OSU. Portland State serves a higher percentage of Oregonians, more Pell Eligible students, and more students of color than any other university in Oregon. Portland State is a driver of social mobility and builds Oregon's middle class, placing Portland State with the more traditional, flagship institutions is inconsistent with the characteristics of our university and not equitable for our students.

PSU students are deeply committed to limiting the growth of tuition. We are grateful that our tuition is \$2,000 to \$3,000 less than OSU or UO. But it also means PSU must educate more Oregonians with far fewer resources. Our limited philanthropic dollars must go to students to offset the dramatic differences in funding. At the same time, our students deserve modern facilities. The proposed rubric unfairly forces PSU to choose between modern facilities or student support. Generating a matching gift of \$10 million for a building renovation represents almost 25% of PSU's annual fundraising. The same amount is less than 7% of annual fundraising at OSU and less than 4% of annual fundraising at UO.

There is a simple solution. Acknowledge that PSU is neither a regional university or a flagship. Acknowledge that, like so many PSU students, the university does more with less. Don't make us choose between students and facilities. Amend Section F to adopt a different tier because PSU is a different university.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Violet Gibson  
President

Associated Students of Portland State University