



**Emily Wanous**

OSA Legislative Director

[emily@orstudents.org](mailto:emily@orstudents.org)

(541) 240-1432

Dear Chair Rives and members of the HECC Sub Committee on Funding and Achievement,

For the record, my name is Emily Wanous and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association. Thank you for dedicating time on the agenda for our input.

Regarding the ongoing changes to the SSCM, we appreciate HECC staff's work over the last year to review the SSCM, and also look forward to revisiting this model on a more regular basis. We hope that in moving forward, we continue to have this model and discussion around it reflect the needs of students. While we recognize the good work being done amongst HECC staff, institutions and students--we simultaneously need to highlight that the way we navigate these conversations are all based on the ultimate problem: severe lack of funding to the PUSF and institution's ability to serve students directly relates to this fact. I hope that we, institutions, and the HECC continue to work together to address this funding issue in a collaborative process.

With all of this being said, there are still issues we believe need to be worked out with the SSCM, for instance:

- When incentivizing institutions to graduate low-income students, "low-income" is measured based on Pell eligibility. In a Tuition Equity state, we need to be leaders in shifting towards a more sound metric, because Pell eligibility leaves out undocumented students and some formerly incarcerated students. We would ask the HECC to work with us to prioritize addressing this issue this year.
- We are also interested to see how we can make sure student veterans and students of color are being measured in this formula with accuracy. No underrepresented students should slip through the cracks, and solid, accurate incentivization measures within the SSCM.

We are thankful for the work being done across stakeholder groups. OSA would like to make clear the importance of continuing to center the lived experiences of Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color, students from low-income families and more. Access to education is vital and each and everyone of us here holds some degree of power and privilege. Let's use our power to ensure our communities in Oregon not only have access to higher education, but have the necessary support once enrolled.

**Thank you for your time and I welcome any questions or concerns.**

Sincerely,

Emily Wanous