



## Oregon Student Association

Greetings Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee,

My name is Anayeli Jimenez and I served as the first community college student commissioner on the HECC from August 26th, 2013 through June 30th, 2015.

During my time, I was given plenty of opportunities to voice my opinion on behalf of students on the community college level. I also sat on multiple committees who worked on finding ways to make higher education more accessible and affordable for students. As a representative without voting rights, I constantly felt my opinions were heard but not validated through action. I felt this to be true primarily knowing that while each commissioner has their own unique stake on this board, we were ultimately coming together as HECC commissioners to do what was best for the bigger picture of higher education in Oregon.

As a student who was highly engaged in the Oregon political climate around higher education, I strongly felt that my participation on the HECC was important, and that singling out my role to not be able to fully participate through voting stifled the true potential of the HECC. This commission ultimately helps institutions of higher education serve not only students, but Oregon as a whole. If we cannot recognize the importance of voting rights for the seats listed in HB 3280, then the HECC cannot move forward in achieving the statutory education completion goals of 40/40/20 which were established when I served as commissioner.

As a student commissioner I brought an important and unique perspective to contribute to the overall mission of the commission. There is already a system of checks and balances within the HECC, and granting those 6 positions voting rights will not change the balance or makeup of the body, rather, ensuring that these positions have voting rights would bring greater balance to the commission.

As someone who took great pride in the work I contributed while on the HECC, I urge you to support HB 3280 that established voting rights for vital stakeholders on the board.

Thank you,

Anayeli Jimenez  
Former HECC Student Commissioner (2013-2015)

### OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

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