



March 5, 2025

Chair Hudson and Members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Committee:

Oregon's seven public universities, through the Oregon Council of Presidents (OCOP), are neutral as to **HB 2649**. However, we share the following information.

Since its inception, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission has had the authority to approve or disapprove tuition increases exceeding five percent. Subsequently, in 2018, the legislature passed HB 4141, which requires universities to establish advisory bodies to advise the president of the university on the president's recommendations to the governing board regarding resident tuition and mandatory enrollment fees. These advisory bodies are active and engaged on all campuses.

Further, the statute provides specific actions that must be taken in the event a university seeks to increase enrollment beyond five percent, including the provision of all written reports, minority reports, and other materials from that advisory body to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Finally, the commission may request any additional information it deems necessary to consider any requests.

These provisions have been in place since the 2019-20 academic year and were the product of significant negotiations between universities and the then-active Oregon Student Association. HB 2694 seeks to change this process for Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Tech, Southern Oregon University and Western Oregon University.

The universities take no position on the bill, but recommend the committee consult with representatives of each institution's student government should the committee seek to take further action on the legislation.