

## President's Report—Faculty Senate 3.9.2021

### 1. Vaccinations for university employees

Oregon Governor Kate Brown announced during a press conference this morning (Feb. 26, 2021) that employees of the state's public and private colleges and universities will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination beginning May 1. This includes faculty and staff at Oregon's community colleges, public and private universities.

This is good news and was accomplished in partnership with HECC and the seven public universities—see Phase 1B Group 7 [here](#).

### 2. Legislative updates

[Senate Bill 233](#) **Common course numbering** to support **transfer students**. Community colleges appear to support more authority for HECC to resolve differences over the Transfer Council's advisory role. Separately, a designated set of university registrars and community college academic administrators continue to work to identify the most highly transferred set of courses that would initially be prioritized for common numbering.

[House Bill 2835](#) **benefits navigator**. This bill passed unanimously out of House Education last week with a \$5M fiscal statement. It was referred to Joint Ways and Means.

[House Bill 2590](#) **Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students**. Rep. Alonso Leon is holding a work group meeting this week to discuss amendments that we hope we will establish an explicit role for campus voices, in addition to those of students, on the task force

[SB 712](#), that would redesignate current non-voting HECC Commissioners to voting members and add a Commissioner, is scheduled for a public hearing in Senate Education next week. OCOP and OCCA will meet with one of the chief sponsors, Sen. Dembrow, this week to ask that a community college and public university president be appointed to the Commission if it is to be constituted as a board of stakeholders.

[HB 2472](#), that would designate OIT as Oregon's Polytechnic University, passed unanimously out of the House Education Committee last week.

A second public hearing was held last week on [HB 3012 in House Education](#). The bill would revise the process for students to set incidental fees on college and university campuses. We are in discussions with OSA to identify amendment language to make this proposal better for students, administrators and governing boards.

Finally, here is a video link WOU sent to legislators to promote additional funding for higher education through PUSF funding: [Link to video](#) Dave McDonald coordinates these efforts and thank you to Gabbi Boyle.