

**Rep. Michael Dembrow**  
District 45



**Senator Mark Hass**  
District 14

Chair, House Higher Education  
and Workforce Development  
Committee

Chair, Senate Education and  
Workforce Development Committee

February 11, 2013

Dear interested party--

Attached you will find a draft of statutory language that would address the organization of the state's higher education system.

We believe this effort builds on the work that culminated in the passage in 2011 of SB 242, SB 909, and SB 253, which created the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the OEIB, and Oregon's 40-40-20 goal respectively. It is intended to bring the various pieces of the post-secondary "puzzle" into closer strategic coordination in order to enhance access, affordability, quality, and success.

The architects of this draft hope to achieve the following transformations of our post-secondary education system:

- The merger of state-level responsibilities for community colleges, universities, private career schools, degree authorization, and financial aid within a Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC).
- The creation of a Department of Post -Secondary Education and Workforce Development (DPSEWD) that operates under the direction of the HECC and provides integrated leadership, regulation, and support for community colleges, universities, private career schools, and financial aid programs.

This draft assumes the passage of complementary legislation (SB 270 and HB 2149) to establish institutional governing boards at University of Oregon and Portland State University. (We anticipate that future drafts will assume the possibility of an institutional governing board for Oregon State University.) It also assumes that other public universities (described here as the "Oregon University System") will be governed by a consortium board (here, the "State Board of Higher Education") with authorities that correspond to those held by the UO and PSU (and potentially OSU) boards. It provides that institutional governing boards, including the consortium board, would be part of a state system that includes community colleges and is overseen by the HECC. For the most part, this draft does not try to address specific questions of how to divide authorities between university governing boards, including the consortium board, and the HECC. We expect these issues to be dealt with primarily in the context of discussions about one or more of the existing bills that would establish institutional governing boards.

This draft is rough, and we are providing it to you in order to start a conversation about the specifics of the proposal. Unfortunately we are in a bit of a time crunch, as the legislative session is already underway and committee deadlines are pending. We realize the draft is quite lengthy, but hope you will be able to

take the time to read through it and offer written comments. We're including a section-by-section summary of the draft, as well as an animated PowerPoint, in order to help you with this task.

In order to ensure that we are able to collect comments and concerns in an efficient manner, we would ask you to provide your written comments to House Higher Ed Committee Administrator Victoria Cox ([Victoria.cox@state.or.us](mailto:Victoria.cox@state.or.us)) by Monday, February 18.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this proposal with your organization. Working together, we believe that a terrific opportunity exists to consolidate and streamline existing boards and commissions, free up additional state resources for teaching and learning, facilitate increased private investment in post-secondary education, foster greater coordination among post-secondary institutions, and establish resource allocation mechanisms that promote the goal of 40-40-20.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Dembrow  
House District 45



Mark Hass  
Senate District 14