

IFS Update

At its recent meeting in Corvallis, IFS heard from the chairs of the Oregon House Higher Education and Workforce Development, along with the Education, committees. The agenda for the Higher Education Committee is especially robust, with nearly 100 bills having already been introduced for the current session. Of particular interest to EOU is HB 4129, which would allow UO and PSU to create their own institutional governing boards. In tandem with the creation of the Oregon Education Investment Board and Higher Education Coordination Commission (Committee, Board), the future governance structure for higher education in Oregon is in a state of flux. It is unclear whether there will be an OUS, Chancellor's Office, or even IFS in the future.

Hence, IFS has called a special meeting for February 8 and 9 in Eugene to discuss and finalize a legislative agenda for the current session. The Committee Chairs who visited with IFS made it very clear that they were reaching out to faculty to provide much needed input on current legislation. In particular, IFS is committed to the principle that the regional institutions (WOU, SOU, OIT, EOU) are not harmed to the movement towards institutional governing boards. Please note the strong support from IFS Senators from "The Bigs" for this position.