

IFS report 5/17/2019

Overarching theme of this meeting could be considered to be responsiveness of higher education in continuing to contributing to the economic, social and political well-being of the community.

The recent legislative budget update could present an opportunity to gain some additional funding in the budget for higher education. IFS sent a letter to HECC Executive Director Ben Cannon that highlights the work of our public four-year institutions in supporting Oregonians (attached).

Tuition increases exceeding 5% are proposed for four schools (PSU, SOU, OIT, UO). HECC review to take place prior to voting at the Commission meeting on June 13.

Increases over 5% requires evidence of

- Fostering an inclusive and transparent tuition process
- Safeguarding access to degree completion for historically underrepresented groups
- Financial conditions demonstrating need for increase

HECC is revising the Student Success and Completion funding model (SSCM) this year. IFS will have a representative participating in the workgroup that will form in July/August.

OTAC work on Major Transfer Maps is continuing. HECC forming workgroup with registrars and chief academic officers (or representatives) to address how to handle variation in student completion of MTMs. Biology and English MTMs have OTAC approval, Education is coming up for approval. Computer Science and Criminal Justice have been selected to begin MTM development. Business will make another attempt to develop an MTM.

SB3 (applied baccalaureate at Community Colleges) is moving forward. Approval process for such programs will be similar to current process for new programs, including undue duplication and hardship on schools already offering similar programs.

IFS supports taking a more proactive approach to working with our legislators to suggest legislation that we think could help student success. Shared governance is crucial – administrators and faculty must work together or risk feeding into a narrative that higher education is not responsive to state needs, demonstrating meeting of outcomes and providing value to the state. The biggest challenge is moving fast enough – for example, do tenure and promotion guidelines limit innovation and risk-taking?

IFS support for UO model of student evaluations of teaching (just passed UO senate). This model fosters teaching improvement and supports teaching innovations.

<https://provost.uoregon.edu/revising-uos-teaching-evaluations>

Following testimony from IFS on NWCCU revised standards, elimination of language related to shared governance and academic freedom is now being revisited.