Proposed Legislative Concepts

Summary
The Oregon University System (OUS) Working Groups on Academic Excellence/Economic Development, Access/Affordability, and Excellence in Delivery and Productivity propose the following set of Legislative Concepts that will: increase the number of Oregonians who are financially able to enter higher education; successfully complete their college education; and advance economic development initiatives in Oregon’s public postsecondary institutions.

Background
In a very brief period of time, the Board’s Working Groups have held a number of public meetings and conducted a series of fact-finding and development activities that have led to the creation and development of potential activities that would advance the Board’s and the Governor’s higher education statewide agenda. The proposed activities have been reviewed and modified by a wide-range of education representatives (including OUS and community college presidents, provosts, academic deans, representatives from the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Student Association, the OUS Interinstitutional Faculty Senate, and representatives from the broader public agencies, and private businesses).

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the State Board of Higher Education, adopt the following items as Legislative Concepts. (NOTE: the full text of the Proposed Legislative Concepts is attached.)

1. Access Scholarships for Education Trust (ASET): expansion of need-based financial aid via revisions to, and enhancements of, the Oregon Opportunity Grant, for postsecondary education.

2. Connecting higher education to a statewide student-service system: to improve use of student data to support better student preparation for college and increased college efficiency in terms of initial course placement and admission application processing.

3. Removing institutional transfer barriers to students: create a seamless transition pathway for students from community colleges to OUS that results in greater efficiency for students and more students able to graduate faster and with less debt.

4. Strategic investment to support increased student access to college: investments to support expansion of services and offerings that increase capacity and education opportunities for high school and post-secondary students.
5. Academic excellence and economic development: addition of resources to advance two to five initiatives for Oregon’s economic development which, collectively, touch every part of the state and build on academic excellence residing in Oregon’s postsecondary institutions.

(Executive Committee Action Required.)