OUS Strategic Planning
As Presented to the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Oregon State Board of Higher Education

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Planning assumptions

- OUS will need to serve greater numbers of students (entering from high school, in the workforce, returning after an absence)
- In collaboration with the state, OUS has an obligation to provide affordable higher education
- Solutions to access and affordability choices require participation of multiple providers (OUS, community colleges, independent colleges, OSAC)
- State funding over next few biennia not likely to support fully-funded RAM
- State’s budget realities argue for greater OUS flexibility in accessing other revenue sources
Key planning issues are inter-related

- Quality
- Access
- Affordability
- State $
When state funding shrinks, the choices are…

- Enroll more students
- Allow quality (e.g., class sizes, time to degree) to deteriorate
- Rely on tuition to support the additional enrollment
When state funding shrinks, the choices are…

Or…

- Maintain existing tuition levels (e.g., tuition freeze or tight restriction)
- Limit enrollment to reflect lower resource level
- Allow quality to find own level
When state funding shrinks, the choices are...

Or...

- Peg quality to a point we can recognize and measure
- Peg enrollments to that (stable) level of quality
- Allow tuition increases and count on further productivity to manage the campus resource margin
Moved, that the State Board of Higher Education henceforth link state funded enrollment directly to a minimum value of funding per FTE, based upon a recent enrollment period, and indexed to the agreed state RAM appropriation. This policy shall be known as the "sustainable enrollment level" of the OUS and shall represent the commitment of the State Board to stop the erosion of quality in the delivery of OUS instructional services.

When a campus seeks to enroll additional resident students beyond the limits of those funded by state appropriation (i.e., on the margin of support provided by their tuition alone), the Board shall hold the institution accountable for assuring that the quality of student experience and the level of campus performance be maintained.