November 26, 1973. Chancellor Lieuallen requested clarification of two interpretations with respect to the limitations. First, enrollments had shifted between the University of Oregon and Oregon State University and it became necessary to determine the Board's wishes (to continue the previous ceilings or set new ceilings). Second, clarification was needed to determine whether ceilings were absolute or were to be administered within the plus or minus 10% figure cited in the May 1972 action. The Board referred the question to the Academic Affairs Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Board at its January 1974 meeting.

January 22, 1974. The Board's staff recommended that the University of Oregon's enrollment ceiling be increased to 16,000 FTE for fall 1974, with the movement from 15,000 to be phased over four years of 250 student increments. The recommendation resulted from a change in enrollment experienced at the University and projections that future enrollments would exceed the 15,000 ceiling.

Extensive discussion followed and several points significant to later administration of the policy resulted.

Mr. Corey recognized the potential for miscalculation of institutional enrollment trends and indicated that he considered the ceilings as not being absolute.

Mr. Stewart suggested a common ceiling for both the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. Mr. Holmes concurred in the principle that ceilings for the University of Oregon and Oregon State University should be undifferentiated. Mr. Mosser stated (what has become a major principle in the enrollment ceiling policy) that the ceiling was a budgetary one. The University could exceed the ceiling if it so desired, but funding over and above the ceiling would be limited to student fee payments.

The University of Oregon submitted a revised proposal that the issue of a modified ceiling for fiscal year 1974-75 be set aside and considered in the 1975-1977 budget preparation. The Board then requested staff to present a report on enrollment trends and recommendations for change to the February Committee meeting.

March 26, 1974. Long-range enrollment projections and revised enrollment ceiling recommendations were submitted by the Board's staff. The recommendation included recognition of two dimensions to the Board's objectives: (1) a judgment about the appropriate size of an institution in relation to its mission; and (2) a short-range guide to institutional planning. It suggested consideration of separate size and planning ceilings. Portland State University was cited as an institution where 15,000 might be an appropriate ultimate size expectation but was not a useful planning guideline for enrollments ranging around 9,000 FTE.

The Board reiterated its objective that the ceilings be a planning guideline. Concerns about the appropriate level of ceilings ranged from the effect of one institution's growth on other institution's enrollment to size in relation to institutional mission and student access to higher education.

The Board adopted the planning ceiling principle in setting ceilings of 15,500 for both the University of Oregon and Oregon State University, 10,000 for Portland State University, and lesser numbers for the colleges and Oregon Institute of Technology.

1975. Chapter 528, Oregon Laws 1975, "established, as a part of Oregon State University, a program in Veterinary Medicine." Section 6 of Chapter 528 established a fall term PTE ceiling for Oregon State University of 15,500 student. HB 2811 of the 1979 Legislative Assembly would repeal Section 6.
March 23, 1976. As guidelines were prepared for the 1977-1979 Biennial Budget Request, the Board reaffirmed enrollment ceilings for all institutions except Oregon College of Education. At Oregon College of Education, enrollment experience and projections indicated that the institution had and would continue to exceed its 3,000 fall FTE ceiling. Based upon those projections, the Board authorized an increase in the ceiling for Oregon College of Education, to 3,200 effective fall term 1977. Although the enrollment projections were based upon the best information available at that time, they proved to be erroneous and Oregon College of Education has suffered severe enrollment declines since that time.

January 27, 1978. Again, as part of the biennial budget preparation process, the Board agreed that enrollment issues were significant points requiring consideration. The Board was informed that the staff would continue the current enrollment targets unless the Board directed review of particular institutions. The Chancellor indicated that enrollment ceiling changes may be requested by institutional administrators even though the changes were not identified as issues urgent for planning.

March 24, 1978. In continuing the biennial budget guidelines development, enrollment ceilings were again discussed. The Chancellor summarized the staff report on enrollment planning:

In discussing the rationale for the establishment of enrollment ceilings, it was indicated that one of the important reasons was for planning purposes. The impact of the ceilings in this respect has been felt at many of the institutions.

The Chancellor said that at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University another reason for the imposition of the ceilings at the time they were established was that the institutions were at a size where the targets should not be raised. At the other institutions, the ceilings represented what was anticipated in terms of the near-future enrollments and the facilities available. The Chancellor said it had been his interpretation that it was unlikely that any change in the maximum ceilings at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University would occur, but that if enrollment pressures developed at other institutions, consideration at least would be given to modifying those targets upward. He said Portland State University had a more volatile circumstance in terms of enrollment than the other institutions and the Board might want to consider modifying the ceiling upward if the enrollment pressures in the metropolitan area seem to indicate that such a decision would be advisable.

January 26, 1979. Based upon the experience of Portland State University since fall term 1976 and projections through 1988-89, the fall term ceiling of 10,000 is exceeded by numbers of students ranging from 10,015 (1986-87) to 10,636 (1981-82). The Board approved the staff recommendation to increase the Portland State University ceiling to 10,500 effective fall term 1979. Adjustments in the Portland State University budget allocation for 1979-1981 have been recommended in the Governor's Budget submitted to the 1979 Legislature and are limited by the 1 percent funding stabilization policy for enrollment growth or decline.

The following summary displays the enrollment ceilings by institution as they were initiated in 1972 and modified by subsequent Board actions.
Enrollment Ceilings Set By Board Action
Fall Full-Time Equivalent Students

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* The Board action of May 22, 1972, limited fall FTE for fall 1978 and provided that a 1984-85 limit be expected to range from 10% above to 10% below the 1978 ceiling.

Discussion and Recommendation by the Committee

In the discussion, it was indicated that legislation to repeal the enrollment limitation established by the Legislature for Oregon State University was being amended in committee. In response to a question from Mr. Batiste concerning the review of enrollment ceilings, the Chancellor explained that the legislation had no effect on the review of enrollment ceilings. The repeal of the ceiling at Oregon State University by the Legislature would put all of the institutions in the same category so that all institutions will be subject to Board policy. The Chancellor said it was assumed the Board would want to review enrollment figures regularly and frequently.

Mr. Holmer said that one of the first budgetary decisions in the process of preparing the biennial budget request involves the reaffirmation or modification of the enrollment ceilings.

The Committee recommends that the Board accept the report as presented.

Mr. Ater commented that agenda items on tuition and residence hall issues raised questions about the possibility of influencing enrollment.

Board Discussion and Action

The Board received the report as presented.

Student Financial Access to State Institutions--II

(Considered by Committee on Finance, Administration, and Physical Plant, April 27, 1979; present--Ingalls, Ater, and Moore.)

Staff Recommendation to the Committee

It was recommended that the Committee examine the fee policies described in the staff report and advise staff of recommendations or options it would wish to explore in 1979-80 fee proposals to be submitted to the Board later this year.

Discussion and Recommendation by the Committee

During Committee discussion of elements of the staff report, several suggestions were made for further information to be included in subsequent reports to the Committee and the Board. The Committee requested a further report and recommendations after the Legislative Session has concluded.

Board Discussion and Action

The Board received the report as presented.