

RESOLUTION NO. 691

A RESOLUTION OF THE LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF EDUCATION CALLING FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION TO REVISE OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANT AWARD AMOUNTS AND RELATED POLICIES

WHEREAS, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) recently changed the methodology used to award the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) award amounts for the 2023-2024 academic year, resulting in a significant disparity between the award increases for university students and community college students; and

WHEREAS, the maximum awards for community college students have increased 40 percent over the past three years, from \$2,778 in the 2020-2021 academic year to \$3,900 in the 2023-2024 academic year, while university student awards have increased by 109 percent, from \$3,600 to \$7,524 over the same period; and

WHEREAS, this disparity is largely due to the HECC's Office on Student Access and Completion's (OSAC) policy shift from considering a student's total cost of attendance to focusing solely on tuition, fees, books and supplies, despite the fact that non-tuition costs such as housing and food continue to be significant barriers to higher education; and

WHEREAS, the full cost of attendance at a community college is approximately \$22,549 for the 2022-2023 academic year, about 25 percent less than the \$29,826 cost for university students, contradicting the assumption that university students have twice the costs of community college students; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Oregon Legislature increased funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant from \$208 million to \$308 million, yet the proposed allocation of these funds disproportionately favors university students; and

WHEREAS, community colleges, including Lane Community College, serve a high proportion of low-income students and those with the greatest needs in meeting the full cost of attending a post-secondary institution; and

WHEREAS, the current policy that requires students to attend the fall term to be eligible for the OOG in the winter and spring terms disproportionately affects non-traditional students who may enroll at different times due to various circumstances such as job

layoffs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

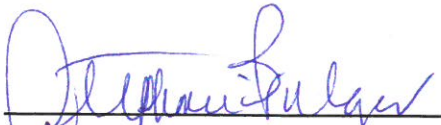
1. That the HECC should return to calculating OOG awards based on the total cost of attendance—not just tuition, fees, books and supplies—to more accurately reflect the financial needs of all students.
2. That the HECC should, at a minimum, maintain equity in cost-of-attendance funding for students at lower-cost institutions such as community colleges.
3. That the HECC should rescind the rule requiring students to attend the fall term to be eligible for the OOG in the winter and spring terms, thereby supporting non-traditional students and those with varying enrollment times.
4. That the HECC Commission should annually approve the OOG award amounts, ensuring transparency and equitable distribution of the more than \$300 million in state funding, and include a detailed projection of how OOG funds will be allocated across different types of institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the HECC, the Oregon State Legislature, and other relevant stakeholders, emphasizing the urgent need for a more equitable distribution of OOG funds in support of community college students.

ADOPTED by the Lane Community College Board of Education this 6th day of December, 2023.



Austin Fohnagy, Board Chair
Lane Community College Board of Education



Stephanie Bulger, Secretary
Lane Community College Board of Education