



April 24, 2017

Co-Chair, Senator Rod Monroe
Co-Chair, Representative Barbara Smith Warner
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Smith Warner,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer questions that arose during the April 19 Higher Education Coordinating Commission's presentation to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

In reference to [slide 546](#), Co-Chair Smith Warner requested more information on which positions from the 2015-17 Legislative Approved Budget (LAB) were cut from the 2017-19 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB). As part of the HECC's 2015-17 LAB, the agency was allocated funding for limited duration staffing (many in 0.10, 0.08, and 0.25 FTE increments) to complete reports and convene workgroups to meet specific activities directed by the Legislature. They are as follows:

	Positions	FTE
College Access Challenge Grant	7	1.91
SB 113 Employment Data workgroup	1	0.50
SB 418 Accelerated Learning workgroup	2	0.58
SB 473 Self Identification	1	0.25
SB 932 Aid for Undocumented	1	0.08
HB 2871 Open Educational Resources	2	1.36
HB 3308 Underserved Grants	1	0.25

Note: most positions were full time for just a few months (i.e. 0.25 FTE was for six months for one position.)

In reference to [slide 368](#), Co-Chair Smith Warner asked if any proposed projects prioritized by the HECC were not intended to:

- Extend the useful life of current capital assets,
- Expand the capacity to meet needs of students, or
- Develop or extend key competitive advantages

All capital requests made by the universities for the 2017-19 biennium and prioritized by the HECC were related to these uses. The HECC capital policy statement and scoring rubric are provided to institutions prior to the prioritization process, so it is possible that institutions only forwarded projects consistent with these criteria for prioritization by the HECC.

It is possible to imagine hypothetical capital projects that would not meet these criteria. The construction of a new athletics facility, for example, would likely not be consistent with the listed uses. Such projects may qualify for university-paid state bonding, but would likely not qualify under HECC policies for state-paid bond financing.

Finally, in reference to [slide 374](#), Representative Whisnant requested more detail on the state bonding limits. The Department of Administrative Services is the agency tasked with monitoring state bonding and establishing the state bonding limitations. DAS is also the entity that could provide better context for the Committee around how higher education capital projects affect the state bond limitation, and what issues or concerns might exist should the state issue bonds up to or over the amount of the established limitation.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Thomas, Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs, at kyle.thomas@state.or.us or at 503-480-9596.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben Cannon".

Ben Cannon
Executive Director