Technical and Regional Universities’ Proposed Governance Structure
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Introduction
Serving nearly 20,000 students, and with the physical capacity to expand, Oregon’s four public technical and regional universities (TRUs) offer a substantial portfolio of programs and a commitment to both rural and urban students, who contribute significantly to the state’s 40-40-20 goal. Each TRU is committed to a primarily undergraduate mission, to serving under-represented populations, to sharing services in order to keep students’ costs as low as possible, and to collaborating with other educational partners.

The presidents of the TRUs and others on their campuses and in their communities support a governance structure that promotes these shared values while also preserving the unique elements of their respective institutions and fostering deep connections to their communities.

After reviewing public university governance models nationwide, the TRU presidents propose a model that supports both local control and statewide collaboration for each of their institutions. The model includes two components: (1) an independent institutional governing board for each institution and (2) a Presidents’ Council.

Governing: Institutional Boards
- Each TRU is governed by its own Board of Trustees with the authorities and responsibilities stipulated in SB270.
- As in SB270, between 11 and 15 members on each of the four boards serve staggered terms as appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate.
- The president of each TRU is appointed by the Board of Trustees as its principal officer and serves at its pleasure.
- The president is an ex-officio non-voting member of the board.

Coordinating: Presidents’ Council
- The Presidents’ Council is composed of TRU presidents, a member of each institution’s governing board, and a member of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Other university presidents would be welcome to join as well.
- Neither a separate legal entity nor a governing body, the Presidents’ Council promotes collaboration and advocacy to strengthen Oregon’s higher educational agenda for the benefit of all Oregonians.
- The Presidents’ Council ensures collaboration among the institutions and fosters efficiencies and economies of scale.

Benefits to Independent Boards:
- Maintains the distinctiveness of each campus and the deep commitments to respective regions as well as to statewide focus;
- Ensures and promotes close financial and programmatic knowledge, oversight, and viability.

Benefits to Presidents’ Council:
- Supports collaboration among the TRUs and other educational partners;
- Maintains and expands operational flexibility through economies of scale in shared services and best practices across institutions.