

# Interinstitutional Faculty Senate

*Representing all OUS Institutions*

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## *“The Future of Education in Oregon”*

### *A Statement by the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS)*

*February 15, 2013*

As the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS), we are the elected voice of faculty in public university education in Oregon, representing eight unique and diverse university campuses.

As the legislature considers major changes to the education system of our state, the IFS is eager to help with changes that will enable our faculty to better serve the needs of our students. As people who have devoted our lives to higher education, our faculty is focused on giving high quality education to Oregonians. Our students are Oregon’s future.

The IFS greatly values the unique mission of each of Oregon’s public universities. In a state that has increasingly diverse needs, our ability to meet these diverse needs is one of our greatest strengths. Each institution strives to best serve its own particular demographic, while serving the entire state. We support the Governor’s ultimate goal of achieving 40-40-20. To accomplish this, we must ensure “the four A’s”:

- Academic Excellence;
- Access;
- Accountability;
- Affordability.

We are committed to providing the best educational outcomes in a way that honors the investment of each and every Oregon taxpayer.

In order to meet the challenges of the ambitious 40-40-20 goals, we recognize that an unprecedented reorganization of the system is necessary. The expertise and experience of our faculty is essential to the success of a new system; we are eager to participate at all levels of this endeavor, including all aspects of shared governance and educational policy, now and in the future.

We affirm the educational goals of Governor Kitzhaber, and as our new system takes shape, we are committed to taking an active role in the process of decision-making, which is our responsibility as the elected voice of public university educators. From this point forward, we ask for inclusion on all committees and task forces making decisions that affect our students, to whose long-term success we are so deeply committed.

Working together as educators and legislators, we can create a system of education that truly serves the highest interests and long-term needs of our state.