Technical and Regional University (TRU)
Proposed Governance Structure

Presentation to the Joint Legislative Interim Special Committee on University Governance and Operations | January 2014
Technical and Regional University Commitments

• High quality, affordable education for Oregonians
• 40-40-20
• Undergraduate education
• Underserved populations
• Service to and partnership with the communities we serve
• Collaboration with Oregon universities, community colleges, and K-12
TRU Values/Similarities

We are committed to:

• Collaborating, sharing services
• Keeping students’ costs as low as possible
• Providing diverse educational opportunities
• Maintaining the distinctiveness of our respective campuses, our respective “brands”
• Enhancing operational and programmatic flexibility and nimbleness
• Maintaining financial viability and sustainability
Proposed Governance Structure

We seek governance that provides:

• Strong connections to our respective institutions and to our communities
• Operational and programmatic flexibility
• Strong partnership among our four TRU institutions
• Support for our respective students, missions, and brands
• Each TRU is governed by its own Board of Trustees with general supervision of the institution
• Between 11-15 Board members serve staggered terms as appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate.
• One board member is a student; one is a faculty member; and one is a non-faculty member - all appointed by the governor.
• The president of each TRU is appointed by the Board of Trustees as its principal officer and serves at its pleasure.
• The institution’s president is a non-voting ex-officio member of the board.
Presidents’ Council

- Composed of the four TRU presidents and one member of each institution’s governing board.
- Chaired by one of the TRU presidents on a rotating basis.
- Not a separate legal entity but works to advance an advocacy and policy agenda to strengthen Oregon’s technical and regional universities for the benefit of Oregonians.
- Works together to provide oversight for the TRU shared services.
Benefits of this Model

- Provides autonomy coupled with collaboration (i.e. both independence and interdependence)
- Establishes 40+ board members around the state knowledgeable and passionate about the TRU missions
- Provides greater opportunities to build on distinctiveness
- Provides greater number of voices for TRU support statewide
- Provides strong support and direction for each TRU campus, yet focuses on collaboration, distinctiveness, and financial strength
- Provides opportunities for lower cost through TRU shared services with structured oversight by presidents and boards
- Provides more opportunities for collaboration
Shared Services vs. Governance

• University Shared Services Enterprise becomes model for all seven campuses to share big ticket items
• TRU Campuses collaborate to offer remaining services that can be shared efficiently, at lower cost
• Fiscal impact to TRU campuses is a direct result of unbundling of shared services; not choice of governance model
• TRU Presidents engage in extensive collaboration, considering SBHE and community input, and arrive at unique governance model.
Next Steps

• Complete business plans for analysis of TRU Governance model by February 2014
• Express interest in TRU Governance model to stakeholders
• Develop lists of potential members of boards of trustees for gubernatorial and legislative approval
Summary

• The TRU model provides appropriate flexibility for each, but formalizes collaboration.

• TRU presidents welcome partnerships with the other public universities, private universities, community colleges, and K-12.

• The TRUs need governance composed of individuals who understand and care passionately about our respective and shared missions and strongly represent the interests of our students.

• The TRU model is an exciting opportunity for achieving 40-40-20, financial stability, and student success in this new environment.

• The four TRU presidents value the opportunity to work together for the benefit of our students, and to have solid collaboration among our other administrators and faculty.
Thank You