



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 25, 2021

To: Timothy Sekerak, Chief Clerk of the House

RE: SB 712 Vote Explanation

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission has, for years, been a high-functioning body with broad experience. As stated in testimony, and in many letters provided for the record, the group of voting and non-voting members have a history of consensus-building and a record of extremely high-quality, collaborative work. Non-voting members have taken part in subcommittee work and added value to the conversation and decision-making of the HECC for many years now. This change was not brought forward to address upheaval or disagreement. I was concerned with adding six voting members to the commission, making it a fifteen-member board. I am supportive of adding the graduate student to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission as a non-voting member.

According to the Association of Governing Board of Universities and Colleges State Policy Brief, adding key internal stakeholders, namely faculty, staff and alumni is not recommended at this level. It states that by doing so, it can fail to fully meet the test of true-citizen-based governance. Staff and student representation can be found at the Board of Trustees level of governance at each of the public colleges and universities.

As I reflect on my time as a school board member in the Hillsboro School District, I know we were prohibited from having employees, classified and certified, from serving as school board members due to state policy. Staff does have the ability to serve on councils at the school level and are part of many committees to provide perspective, knowledge and voice as vested stakeholders.

I appreciate the intent of this bill, have had multiple conversations with the advocates and have been clear with my position on this bill. I continue to share the value that the interested parties mentioned in this bill have a seat at the table. Their voice and perspective must continue to be heard as part of the larger body of work being done by HECC.

Thank you,

State Representative-House District 30

