

Summary Impact of Reductions

January 8, 2009

Background: In early October 2008 ETIC submitted a proposal to the Governor's Office that described the impact of increasing ETIC's budget by \$5 million (Alternative A) or \$10 million (Alternative B) during the next biennium. In December the Governor's Recommended Budget showed a nice increase but it was \$3 million instead of either of the amounts described in the October proposal. The ETIC campuses have since revised their proposals to reflect the corresponding reductions. Following is language that some of the campuses provided that focused on the impact of the reductions.

Eastern Oregon University

We need to update the existing computer labs, which at present are using machines nearing the end of their useful lives. Providing the students with up-to-date facilities is likely to make them feel more valued and therefore remain with this program. The most important dynamic is to generate a sense of excitement in the program, so that students believe that by leaving they would be missing out on an opportunity to learn and prepare for successful careers in Information Science. Unfortunately, the reduced amount will not be sufficient for the hardware upgrades. This will severely impact the ability of the program to retain students.

Oregon Institute of Technology

The reduction of \$100,000 from the Alternative A proposed funding level will come from OIT's Pre-College Program. The Pre-College Program is well-known for its ability to attract college-ready students to OIT's technical disciplines by identifying, encouraging, and supporting able middle school and high school students, particularly females, ethnic minorities. By focusing on college-ready students, this program has played an important role in OIT's enrollment management effort by reducing dropout rates of first year students.

Oregon State University

The proposed reductions in new funding will negatively impact both our retention efforts and our ability to respond to the growing national demands and Oregon opportunity for research, innovation and education in the clean technology areas. The reduction will further delay our drive to have the impact of a top-25 engineering school.

To date, we have had good success with pilot retention programs focusing on women-to-women mentorships, undergraduate research experiences, early intervention academic coaching for at-risk students and supplemental instruction for students in physics and chemistry. The demand for these important retention efforts exceeds the capacity of our pilot programs and expansion of all programs is not possible as a result of the proposed reduction in new funding.

Southern Oregon University

Due to the new funding level proposed under Alternative C we will cut back in the areas of facilities improvements, lab equipment, and travel. Computer science had planned on a rejuvenation of an avenue of research into 3Dimensional image projection. Due to increased public exposure to this immersive entertainment venue from movies, amusement parks and articles we felt this field to be worth updating our older equipment and exploring the current state of this technology. We will not be doing so at the Alternative C funding level. In materials science, under the current alternative C level, we will cut back on travel to visit industry around the region to establish partnership and collaborations to enable materials science majors to have internship opportunities as part of their training. Student support for conference participation and presentation will also be scaled back. This will have a significant effect on our retention strategies and thus curtail projections we have made for our student retention rate.

University of Oregon

In our original proposal, we proposed to start and grow a solar energy track to the graduate internship program, expand CAMCOR to include a photomodule characterization center and expand photovoltaic research at the University of Oregon. Our collaborators in OECDD indicate that these additions are important elements of attracting additional solar energy companies to Oregon and to aiding the success of Oregon's existing companies. The proposed reduction of funds relative to the original request impacts our ability to accomplish these proposed expansions and we have eliminated a proposed faculty addition. This is reflected in the smaller anticipated growth in the amount of research funding in the metrics.