



School of Science &  
Engineering (OGI)  
Office of the Dean

Mail code 801  
20000 NW Walker Road  
Beaverton, OR 97006-8921  
tel 503 748-1128  
fax 503 748-7056  
www.ogi.edu

Edward W. Thompson,  
Ph.D.  
Vice President and Dean  
[thompsed@ohsu.edu](mailto:thompsed@ohsu.edu)

**Date: January 30, 2008**

**To: Engineering & Technology Industry Council**

**From: Edward W. Thompson**

**RE: ETIC Proposal—Extraordinary Circumstances Extension Request**

---

### **Impact Of Tort Cap Decision On OHSU, SoSE (OGI)**

As you may know, on December 28, 2007, the Oregon Supreme Court announced a decision that effectively removed the tort cap for OHSU and other public entities in Oregon. To cover the cost of higher insurance and liability claims, OHSU is reducing its budget by \$30 million per year for the foreseeable future. As part of these reductions, the School of Science & Engineering (SoSE) will be reorganized as a scaled-down engineering unit inside OHSU's School of Medicine.

### **Current Planning At SoSE**

Planning for the new engineering unit began immediately after the budget reductions were announced on January 18. As with any down-sizing, there are numerous issues to be resolved, including the precise size of the new unit, how it will be organized, and the timetable for the transition to the School of Medicine. It is clear that the unit will retain SoSE's focus on combining science and engineering to improve health and well-being. Its core faculty will be assured of baseline support from SoSE's endowment. The unit's formal status inside the School of Medicine will only accelerate ongoing efforts to expand research and educational collaborations between healthcare providers, scientists, and engineers.

### **Request For Proposal Submission Deadline Extension**

SoSE appreciates its history of investment support from ETIC, and will remain good stewards of the funds it has received to date. Given the ongoing planning for this new engineering unit, however, it would be premature for the School of Science & Engineering to submit a proposal to ETIC at this time. The planning process is being conducted expeditiously, however, and we anticipate resolving outstanding issues by the end of February, 2008. We therefore respectfully request the opportunity to submit a full proposal, for up to the \$3.25M outlined in our previous presentation, no later than March 7, 2008.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward W. Thompson".

Edward W. Thompson, Ph.D.