

**Whereas**, The Legislature and the Governor took the positive step of creating the Shared Responsibility Model in 2007, nearly doubling the amount of direct aid available to Oregon students; and

**Whereas**, Oregon's reinvestment in higher education in the last legislative session has led to a 15 percent increase in residential applications for enrollment across OUS; and

**Whereas**, The 2007 Legislature established a \$125 million State Salary Pool to enable state agencies to cover salary increases over the 2007-09 biennium; and

**Whereas**, Legislative budget leaders decided in February to delay releasing the salary pool; and

**Whereas**, Withholding these funds will result in fewer classes offered, lower graduation rates, reduced enrollments, and higher costs to students; and

**Whereas**, The June revenue forecast shows enough money in the state budget to fully fund the State Salary Pool; and

**Whereas**, A decision not to release the funds in June will reverse the progress made by the governor and legislature to increase funding for Oregon's public universities; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the Portland State University Faculty Senate urges Governor Kulongoski and the Oregon Legislative Assembly to take the necessary steps to release the entire \$125 million State Salary Package when the Legislative Emergency Board meets in June, 2008.