

Failure to release the \$125 million appropriated by the legislature for state agency salary increases will have numerous adverse effects on Southern Oregon University and other universities in the OUS system:

- Oregon universities will not have funds to offer the courses needed by students, resulting in delayed student progress toward graduation, lowered graduation rates, and reduced enrollment.
- Without release of funding in June, Oregon universities will be unable to build budgets and adequately prepare for fall enrollment.
- Southern Oregon University's 3-year retrenchment plan was based on assurances from the Legislature. Loss of this funding (estimated at \$1.X million) at this critical time in our re-organizational efforts undermines our ability to move forward and make good on the commitments we have made to our students, faculty, and community.
- Failure to release funding reverses the minor gains made by Oregon's public universities in the last legislative session, weakening the system's ability to hire and maintain top-quality faculty and recruit high-caliber students.

Therefore, the Southern Oregon University Faculty Senate urges the Governor and the Oregon Legislative Assembly to take all necessary steps to secure release of these funds and continue its investment in higher education and our students.