

August 14 , 2003

04-030

GRANT A CLASS EXEMPTION TO PURCHASE TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS FROM THE OREGON EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONSORTIUM (OETC)

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FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: Various (purchases would be made by many different departments that need to acquire technology products)

APPROVED BY: Randy McEwen, Vice President, Administrative Services
Gerard "Jerry" Berger, Interim President

REPORT: The Oregon Educational Technology Consortium (OETC) is comprised of over five-hundred (500) educational institutions, school districts and other educational nonprofit organizations primarily in Oregon. It is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to maximizing the value of educational technology to its members by working with all vendors to procure the most effective and appropriate technological resources at the lowest possible prices. OETC follows state guidelines regarding competitive processes, and their pricing reflects their ability to obtain state-wide volume discounts. OETC offerings include hardware, software, technology furniture, and on-line resources.

Many of the member educational institutions exempt all of their purchases from OETC from the requirement of additional competitive bidding, in the same manner as purchasing from State contracts, due to the quality assurance and low-cost certainty for their technology purchasing.

At the June 19, 2003 meeting, per Resolution #03-158, the Board granted a specific exemption for just the College Information Technology Services (ITS) department to purchase next generation network equipment from OETC, per the College's approved Five (5) Year Telecommunications Plan.

It has been determined that all other College technology acquisitions would result in substantial cost savings if purchases could be made directly from OETC.

Per ORS 279.017 (2), it is unlikely that granting this class exemption will encourage favoritism in the awarding of public contracts or substantially diminish competition for public contracts, due to the fact that OETC works with virtually all technology vendors to obtain the best products at the lowest prices for the consortium members.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Directors grant a Class Exemption for the College to purchase technology products directly from OETC until further notice.

Purchases exceeding \$50,000 total from OETC will be brought to the Board for expenditure authority or ratification, per Board Policy B703. These expenditures will be primarily from the General Fund, but could also be from bond funds for technology for new construction and remodeled buildings.

Resolutions 04-024 through 04-033 and 04-035 were moved for approval by Director McKinney and it was approved unanimously.