

May 22, 2013

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-chair Monroe, Co-Chair Komp, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon, we are writing to express our support for SB 270, which would allow the University of Oregon and other OUS campuses to establish institutional boards. When students elected us to serve as their leaders last spring, we ran on a promise to change the story of higher education in Oregon from one of increasing costs and decreasing access to one in which need would never prevent an Oregon student from attending the University of Oregon. Working toward the establishment of an institutional board was a central part of our platform.

We firmly believe that the establishment of an institutional board at the University of Oregon will create opportunities for Oregon students and improve higher education in the state. Tuition is a top concern for Oregon students. An institutional board will offer the UO the flexibility to stem the rising cost of tuition. Moreover, a board will provide an important vehicle for increasing philanthropy for scholarship and support programs that help to defray the cost of a higher education.

An institutional board will also help to increase accountability, including to UO students. With only a single campus to manage, the board will sharpen the university's focus on outcomes for students. It will give UO students access to a governing board that will meet on the UO campus regularly. The voting student member and faculty representative contained in the current draft will help to ensure that the voices of important campus constituencies are heard.

We ask that you keep the future of Oregon students in mind and vote for SB 270.

Sincerely,



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