



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

MEMORANDUM

**To: Senator Rod Monroe
Representative Betty Komp
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education**

From: Sam Dotters-Katz, 2013-2014 ASUO President

Date: 5/28/2013

Subject: Student Support for SB 270

Dear Co-chair Monroe, Co-chair Komp, Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education:

My name is Sam Dotters-Katz, and I am just beginning my term as President of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon for the 2013-2014 academic year. I am writing to express my full support for SB 270 as the official elected representative of the UO student body.

I have been working to help establish institutional governing boards on OUS campuses for several years, and supporting SB 270 was a central aspect of my recent campaign. After spending six months campaigning and discussing the issue of governance reform, I can confidently say that my peers overwhelmingly support this critical piece of legislation. Students know the Oregon Legislature has faced difficult choices throughout the recession, and we understand the complexity of higher education governance. What we want are bold, intrepid solutions that will enable all OUS institutions to grow and thrive in these difficult times—solutions like those found in SB 270.

SB 270 will make the University of Oregon more accountable to its students. The efficacy of student activism will increase due to the accessibility of a localized board. Further, the student representation included in the current draft of SB 270 is far more beneficial to students than the current structure of two students on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education (OSBHE). It has been almost a decade since a UO student served on the OSBHE. With SB 270, a guaranteed student seat will ensure that we will have constant input and a sense of ownership over the institution.

At its core, SB 270 is about being able to maintain our commitment to the State of Oregon. The localized decision-making that comes with an empowered governing board will allow the University to continue to grow and expand on our public mission. With your support for SB 270, Oregon's comeback will continue to be fueled by hardworking, educated Oregonians, graduating from OUS institutions. I thank you for your work on this important issue and ask that you support SB 270A with a do-pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

Sam Dotters-Katz
ASUO President

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