

Dear Committee

I do not believe that it is advisable to create an independent board for the University of Oregon and Portland State University, based on both personal experience and stakeholder theory. In allowing the university independence, the public and students will have less influence in its affairs, replaced by the influence of the board members and private interests. There are already private schools if a person wanted to go to a college of this nature, which have an institutional board, issue bonds, raise private capital, and set their own tuition rate. However, by moving to change this model, it removes the competitive pressures from the private schools, moves to place additional burdens on individuals wishing to attend universities.

I have personal experience with both a university with an institutional board, when my wife was attending Bowling Green State University, and with the administrative bodies of Portland State University. The case of BGSU is very telling, as what may happen as a result of these changes, because I have seen similar attitudes at PSU. Its president Carol Cartright was president for 3 years, was president of Kent State University previously, and is on the board of directors for several large businesses. Instead of treating the university as a body of public good, she treated it as if it were a business out to maximize its profit, and to maximize hers along side it.

The state of Ohio granted money to the Ohio University systems, which it meant to be spent on STEM investment and helping older people get back in school. However, she interpreted the mandate of increased enrollment broadly, and used the money to build college housing and dining halls, in a small rural college town which already had vacant housing in abundance. Moreover, she made living in and eating from these mandatory for students, regardless of the fact that there wasn't enough room initially, and the prices were far in excess of both restaurant and mortgages or rents for entire homes. What's worse is that these properties and bond funds issued by the state, which were used to build the properties which were placed into a 501c3 company which she controlled, then quit after completion and had the organization pay her \$1m in compensation and more compensation in perpetuity while outsourcing the management and maintenance to American Campus Communities.

My wife lived in a dorm operated by American Campus Communities, in an apartment that was shared between 4 people. The dishwasher and dryer were not in good working order, the heating was so poor that in the winter temperatures indoors were around 50 degrees. She is legally blind and lived with another fully blind woman, and when she found a subletting on her own to replace her, a woman with no hands who was a friend of the blind woman. The company tried to charge her an entire month's rent as a subletting fee, and was unable to pay that amount and refused to pay double rent, tried to prevent their co-habitation and keep the apartment empty instead, which was a clear violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I had a similar experience when I was attending PSU, which ultimately led me to drop out of school and become homeless, which happened to also benefit the university and American Campus Communities. I was living at 5th & college at the time, and ODOT was attempting to seize the property under the eminent domain laws, which are meant to be for transportation projects only. Due to the fact that they refused to pay market prices for the property, nor allow

the property owner an equity stake in the development deal, I was forced to live in untenable circumstances for over a year.

Later it was found in court by an adjacent legal firm whose property was also under imminent domain, that in fact ODOT was not using it for the stated purpose it listed, and in fact was going to gift it to Portland state, who in turn would lease it to college housing northwest, and won the right to keep his property from being developed.

As a result I had to live in a home which had unsafe levels of noise for months, as jackhammers and other equipment operated adjacent to my apartment, and had no way of taking out trash because the sidewalk the dumpster was located on no longer existed. I ended up not getting sufficient sleep, and suffered ulcers which I was unable to treat, and my grades terribly suffered. In addition I was on a "independence exemption", and had constant issues with the financial aide department, and the inability to process paperwork on a consistent basis.

Ultimately the dean lost the paperwork he was supposed to submit, which was allowing me to continue being in classes. I ended up not being eligible to be a student, not eligible to continue my student computer systems administration job, and not able to support myself as a result. The dean tried to fix the issue, by placing me with a job in the Portland state business accelerator which ended up not paying any of the members who worked there, and as a result left me unable to provide my basic needs.

I later ended up finding work with another person, who I was running a foreign national cheating cartel, because I was familiar with the electronic education systems. I designed his IT systems to develop test banks, and to handle all the back office duties, and even completed upper division coursework for many of them, in fields which were not my primary expertise.

I won a state second place math trophy, have 2 standard deviations above normal intelligence, and in some way resembling a human encyclopedia, Despite having 2 illiterate parents and seven siblings. I am unable to complete a college education nor find employment, and am going to remain socially stratified for the foreseeable future.

Portland state university placed its its needs over mine, and refused to assist me returning to school, nor address the serious issue of cheating going on in its institution due to its active recruitment of foreign nationals. Which is why I do not trust either the university, or even any private body from being able to regulate itself, when it comes to placing the needs of the public first.

There is a pervasive fallacy that Government is either inept, incompetent, or corrupt, however this is true of independent organizations and private industry without effective leadership, without frequent auditing, excessive power, or lack of competition. In fact the studies have shown that the government's organizational productivity and efficiency is as good if not sometimes better than the private sector. The difference being is that other studies try to measure a company on profits, but fail to take into account that their fiduciary duty is to socialize losses and privatize gains.

This is what in effect has caused the higher ed fiasco to begin with, companies are no longer willing to train their employees, and wish to place the burden of educational privilege on the individual and public. In fact in the tech sector employers complain about a lack of talent, or rather that the talent pool is too expensive for them, and they are unwilling to pay market rates for it.

It is so pervasive that I have seen companies that look for skills in a particular company, longer than the technology has even existed, or the talent pool only consists of the original development team. They will then use this shortage, to justify hiring lower wage H1-B workers with false resumes, replace workers with those current skills, and then use the remainder to hire the persons they want.

In effect our government is subsidizing profits, by removing the requirement to pay for training, and refusing to increase minimum wages to living standards. Which in effect keeps our labor force less productive, and reduces the incentive for business to automate low wage tasks. This is known as the "red queen effect" from Lewis Carols' "Through the looking glass." It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!

It is effects like this that have caused not only the income disparity, but also causes other social ills which are directly correlated with income inequality, including but not limited to level of trust, mental illness (including drug and alcohol addiction), life expectancy and infant mortality, obesity, children's educational performance, teenage births, homicides, imprisonment rates, social mobility, including gun violence. People who are driven to desperation, and have nowhere else to run, will behave like a cornered animal. It should be important to remember that modern democracy is founded on the lessons learned from the french, american, and Bolshevik revolution, that when the interests of the public aren't represented by its government, people will either attempt to replace the government by whatever means necessary.

However If you really want to show that you care not only about the economy, and that you want to reduce the amount of social ailments, then we ought to follow the "Scandinavian model". One that has a high top marginal tax rate, fully funds both social welfare, social investment, and technological investment, and offer complete transparency and increasing democracy.