



Amelia Harris, ASOSU President and OSA Vice Chair

14 March 2013

Re: HB 2149

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Amelia Harris, and I am President of the Associated Students of Oregon State University and the Vice Chair of the Oregon Student Association Board of Directors. ASOSU and OSA believe that every Oregonian deserves access to an affordable, quality college education, and that students should be involved in decisions that affect them.

ASOSU is opposed to the bill HB 2149 in its current form. Student fee autonomy, cost of tuition to cover administrative costs, and committee representation are all concerns that ASOSU has regarding this bill.

These institutional boards proposed by HB 2149 do not have enough sufficient student representation on them. Student voice and representation is key on these boards to ensure the boards are following the best interests of the university including the student body. We appreciate there is a student on the board with the new amendments in SB 270, but that is not enough. We need one undergraduate student on the board, one graduate student, two faculty members, and one classified staff member. These are key stakeholders that need to participate in the running of our universities. Students, faculty, and staff all have unique perspectives that need to be institutionalized on the board and without them the board will be out of touch regarding the needs of the university community.

Institutional boards face little accountability to the state in keeping tuition and administrative costs low. The five percent tuition increase cap is not low enough to keep tuition increases affordable for all students. Administrative costs at other universities have skyrocketed as a result of implementing institutional boards, and ASOSU is concerned this pattern will continue in Oregon if institutional boards are implemented at some of Oregon's universities.

This bill removes the autonomy that students currently have over the student fees process. At OSU, the Student Incidental Fees Committee, a committee made up of students elected by the student body, has autonomy over student fees. This bill would eliminate this process and leave the student body without control over how our own student fees are decided.

ASOSU has many concerns about institutional boards like committee representation and the costs to students through its implementation, and we do not support the passage of HB 2149 in its current form.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.