



February 14, 2014

To: Sen. Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Rep. Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
Sen. Peter Courtney

Sen. Richard Devlin
Rep. Val Hoyle
Rep. John Huffman

Rep. Nancy Nathanson
Rep. Greg Smith

From: Garret West, President, Clark Honors College Student Association

Re: Capital Construction Funding Priorities for the University of Oregon

Co-Chairs Girod and Kotek and Members of the Committee:

I am currently a senior at the Robert D. Clark Honors College, a triple major in History, Classics, and Political Science, and the president of the Clark Honors College Student Association. I am also a native Oregonian from Medford.

The Honors College is truly one of Oregon's crown jewels, each year keeping many of Oregon's best and brightest here in Oregon for their college education. Oregonians comprised 70 percent of the Honors College. Yet, our home, Chapman Hall, is badly in need of critical repairs and modernization.

Like many buildings on campus, Chapman has plenty of deferred maintenance. It is used by over 1900 students daily from the Honors College and beyond, but it has received few updates since its construction under President Roosevelt's administration. To state the problem clearly, it does not meet the standards of preparing students for 21st century jobs. Let me offer one small, if important, example: Chapman's common and study spaces lack enough outlets for students to plug in laptops and other devices that would allow us to study and collaborate on projects. Our future careers will require us to be able to collaborate with our peers using technology. However, our training ground does not adequately facilitate such learning. The renovation of Chapman will address these needs. It will modernize the technological capability of the building, while offering more collaboration and study spaces.

On a more basic level, the renovation will increase accessibility. The building's ground floor does not even connect to its upper floors via an internal staircase. This "design feature" makes it difficult for even fully mobile student to navigate the building. The project will address access for disabled students and staff, resulting in an efficient, safe, and welcoming structure for the University's highest achieving scholars.

You have a chance with this project to invest in helping to create the learning environment that will help Oregonians to succeed. I ask you to support the renovation of Chapman Hall.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Garret West, President, Clark Honors College Student Association