



May 2, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey and members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Associated Students of Cascades Campus (ASCC,) I am writing to urge your support of the Student Success Center at OSU Cascades. As a student at OSU-Cascades, I can assure you that the Student Success Center will be an integral part of the campus and will enable students like me to succeed.

While Central Oregon is experiencing tremendous growth, our local resident students and their families are struggling more and more to make ends meet. The affordable housing crisis in the region is hitting our families hard. For example, the majority of Central Oregon Latinx households make less than \$30,000 a year, despite working multiple jobs, yet our young Latinx demographics represent the fastest growing population demographic here with the majority of tri-county elementary schools showing 18-45% Latinx youth enrollment. Geographic location is an important factor in determining not just where, but whether, a high school senior goes on to college. Marginalized community members attend college within a 40 mile radius of their home. OSU-Cascades is the only 4-year university for so many place-bound students in Central Oregon and we desperately need crucial resources to support greater access to higher education and sustainable living wages in the region.

The Student Success Center will provide valuable student spaces, including classrooms, study and tutoring space, advising and counseling services, space for students to display art pieces, collaborative space for students, and student involvement such as a multi-cultural center.

Our campus currently has limited space for students. We have a total of 5 single study rooms and even fewer meeting rooms. Tutoring space is limited to one room in our small library. It is cramped and frequently unavailable. Space for counseling services is desperately needed so we can provide students with the help they need during a stressful term. Our space for displaying student art is limited to the cafeteria where only a few pieces can be displayed at a time for a short period before being switched so other art pieces can be displayed.

We currently have no space for a multi-cultural center. While I appreciate the Commission's advocacy in this important area, we need space for our identity-based clubs on campus including the Multicultural Club and the Equal Rights Alliance. This building would enable meeting rooms for student organizations. As you know, extracurricular activities are a critical component to establishing a community and promoting student success.

Over the last three years, students like me have already invested over \$300,000 in student fees to match state funding for this building. In spring 2017, we voted for a \$50 increase in our quarterly fees to start paying for the building. By the end of the next academic year, this will have grown to more than \$500,000. Although I will have already graduated before the construction of this building, I know that my fellow and future students will be grateful. "Paying it forward" is a time-honored characteristic of

OSU students, but we also need the state to do its share. And that is why we are asking the Legislature to invest in the Student Success Center at OSU-Cascades.

I urge you to support our new, growing campus. The services this building will provide are greatly needed and crucial to our success.

Thank you,

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