



8/10/2020

Members of the Joint Committee on the Second Special Session of 2020:

Senate President (Co-Chair): sen.petercourtney@oregonlegislature.gov

House Speaker (Co-Chair): rep.tinakotek@oregonlegislature.gov

Co-Vice Chair: sen.fredgirod@oregonlegislature.gov

Co-Vice Chair: rep.christinedrazan@oregonlegislature.gov

Other Members of the Committee:

sen.lynnfindley@oregonlegislature.gov

sen.betsyjohnson@oregonlegislature.gov

sen.elizabethsteinerhayward@oregonlegislature.gov

rep.paulholvey@oregonlegislature.gov

rep.danrayfield@oregonlegislature.gov

rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov

Members of the Joint Committee – My name is Jade Warner and I am the President of the Associated Student of Cascades Campus at OSU-Cascades. I am writing to ask that \$12.9 million in state bonds to fund the Student Success Center (SSC) at OSU-Cascades be included in SB 5721. It is no secret that students are struggling in light of this pandemic. The building of the SSC would help take the burden off students in a variety of ways. Although it may seem that the idea of creating more space doesn't seem pressing, the issue of limited campus space has actually exacerbated many of the issues students are facing during this pandemic.

Childcare and health services are two services that could be placed in the Student Success Center and would drastically benefit the physical and emotional health of students during a pandemic. OSU-Cascades also faces the issue that we cannot, alone, test for COVID-19 on campus because we do not have proper space protocol. We have to rely on outside resources to support us with testing. Our food pantry, childcare subsidy program, and safer living resources would also be housed in the SSC.

There is also, now especially with the pandemic, absolutely no space for equity and inclusion programming. There are no spaces that diverse and affinity groups can gather and call their own. Additionally, veterans have no space that offers direct services to help them through their academic and personal experiences. The students at OSU-Cascades desperately need the help of the state – especially as the pandemic chips away at our limited space. OSU-Cascades students are struggling with food insecurity, housing, access to Wi-Fi and devices, and so many other barriers to successful learning. The Student Success Center would offer these students a safe space and a plethora of resources to help them thrive.

Sincerely,

Jade Warner

President of the Associated Students of Cascades Campus

OSU-Cascades