



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ASWOU SENATE PRESIDENT

Werner University Center #122| 345 Monmouth Ave. N.| Monmouth, OR 97361

Dear members of the Education Committee,

My name is Liz Marquez Gutierrez, I am a student at Western Oregon University (WOU) and Senate President of the Associated Students of Western Oregon University (ASWOU) .

Today, I am asking you to vote yes on HB 3012 which strengthens existing legislation that allows student control over the student incidental fee.

The student incidental fee has been and continues to be vital to students at WOU. This fee is the only source of revenue that students have democratic control over and it provides funding for critical resources, services, programs and employment. This past year COVID significantly impacted our college experience, affecting services, programs and employment on our campus. Although we received pushback from the administration to not charge an incidental fee, student leaders saw the importance of continuing to exercise students' right granted by the current statute in order to fund essential services and programs, like the food pantry, and save jobs. Additionally, the student incidental fee funds identity-based and activity-based clubs on our campus that continue to provide support for students.

Most importantly, the student incidental fee process is transparent and democratic; it is a fee for students by students. ASWOU's process requires there to be as much student voices and feedback as possible in order to allocate funds to services and programs that benefit students.

The current statute does not clearly define a path for both students and administrators to follow both their legal and procedural responsibilities in the student fee process. Because of this, the WOU administration blocked attempts to clarify ASWOU's desire to charge and collect an incidental fee for Fall and Winter 2021. HB 3012 clarifies both students and the administration's responsibilities in the student fee process and that students remain in control over the student incidental fee.

Please vote yes on HB 3012, and thank you for your time and consideration.

Liz Marquez Gutierrez
ASWOU Senate President