

Submitter: Matt McIntosh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education

Measure: HB4125

My name is Matt McIntosh, and I am a graduate employee at the UO. Specifically, I teach and grade in the History Department at UO. I do the work to advance the wellbeing of our university and state. History is key to expanding our quaking democracy.

Over the past ten years the BoT of UO has been an anti-democratic cudgel against the wellbeing of students, faculty, and staff at UO. Their processes for participation from community members are minimal and obtuse; their project is obviously to continue UO toward privatization; and prioritize profit over wellbeing. When this state underfunds education, it empowers the Board to rely on philanthropic interests which prioritize profit over wellbeing.

Our union, GTFF at UO, had to fight tooth and nail and nearly strike to get us closer to living wages. The university has no structural response to our housing crisis, to our drug crisis, to our food insecurity crisis. The Board of Trustees does not care about students. They care about profit and investment.

No group of workers in such an important public institution should be on the verge of a strike to obtain wages and benefits that are fair. Unfortunately, that has been the situation on the ground at UO.

This bill is important to me because someone needs to be in charge of public universities who is looking after employees, students, and the communities that make up the university. Not just the investors and foundation, or the six-figure upper administrations.

Thank you,

Matt McIntosh