



Amelia Harris, ASOSU President and OSA Vice Chair, 2012-2013

T. Brett Deedon, ASOSU President-Elect, 2013-2014

23 May 2013

Re: HB 2149

Re: SB 270

Chair Monroe, Komp and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. We are the current and future student body presidents at Oregon State University and board members of the Oregon Student Association. ASOSU and OSA believe that every Oregonian deserves access to an affordable, quality college education, and that students should be involved in decisions that affect us.

We have many grave concerns about Senate Bill 270. The boards this bill will create are too expensive and lack sufficient representation of university student, faculty, and staff, and will cause tuition to skyrocket even more.

To prepare for seceding from the Oregon University System, Portland State has increased administrative costs 144% and the University of Oregon has increased 166% over the last two decades. Campuses who have not been preparing for boards like our own Oregon State University have only gone up 85% and Western Oregon University has only gone up 9% in the same timeframe. These added administrative costs are being passed on to students in the form of excessive tuition hikes.

The fiscal impact statement attached to SB 270 estimates the cost of running institutional boards could be \$1 million to \$5 million or more. \$5 million dollars would buy a year's worth of textbooks for 7,142 students, or a year's worth of food for 4,340 students, or an additional 2,500 Oregon Opportunity Grants for Oregon's neediest students.

We believe \$1 million to \$5 million is far too much to spend creating boards that will do nothing to increase access to higher education in Oregon. Students are unfairly being forced to fund this initiative driven by special interests with no proof or commitment that this will increase access, decrease costs, or bring in additional money to the universities.

Oregon university students see no benefits to local boards, especially as a recent nationwide review by the Oregon University System found there is no correlational between institutional boards and increased philanthropy. In fact, the review found resident tuition increased at higher rates at schools with local boards than tuition at schools with system wide boards.



Key stakeholder groups will not have sufficient representation on these boards. The boards will not represent the best interests of the universities when students, faculty, and staff are inadequately represented or excluded. Moreover, these boards will be responsible for setting the budgets, expenditures, and income to the universities. The same board should not set both income and expenses for their respective universities. Local boards may even harm our community colleges and regional universities by creating a more competitive environment in seeking state funding, bonding, and program approval.

As current and future student body presidents at OSU, we believe Oregon deserves a streamlined and efficient higher education system that ensures a college education is affordable and accessible to all Oregonians, and SB 270 will not help Oregon achieve this.

Signed,

Amelia Harris, President of ASOSU, 2012-2013

T. Brett Deedon, President-Elect of ASOSU, 2013-2014