

Dear Chair Neil Bryant, Vice Chair David Rives and Commissioners of the HECC,

As the outgoing President and External Vice President of the ASUO at the University of Oregon, we urge you to reconsider the University's tuition proposal and to vote to in its favor.

To be clear, neither of us are for any type of tuition increase, and we understand the difficult situation the HECC faces with this potential reconsideration. However, as students we fear what a 5 percent cap on tuition next year will do to our institution as well as our lobbying efforts.

At UO it has already been announced that our Substance Abuse Prevention Program will be cut, which is just the start of the many programs and services that we as students will lose next year. Currently the UO has about two-thirds of the average faculty and staff when looking at comparable AAU institutions. With these cuts, that ratio will continue to decrease and our university will suffer. Not only will the university suffer, but so will our Oregonian students.

Over the past four years, we have experienced first-hand the consequences that are derived from a lack of faculty and staff. Through multiple week waiting periods to schedule counseling appointments, larger class sizes and inconsistent advising that has as times led us down the wrong academic paths. We fear that these issues and many more will increase at an exponential rate next year, further disadvantaging all students, especially those that cannot afford to take an extra term or even extra class.

In terms of lobbying efforts, it is not easy to ask legislators that would like higher education institutions to cut costs to support revenue packages and funding for higher education that will now be directed toward salaries and operating costs. These costs are allocated to programming that provide incredible benefits to low-income students, programs that some legislators may think are frivolous yet assist in all aspects of the higher education experience. It is much more difficult to ask for money to keep the lights on, than it is to ask for funding to decrease tuition. However, that is now the situation you have put us in due to the lack of funding from the state.

We ask that you reconsider your previous vote and pass the University of Oregon's tuition proposal.

Quinn Haaga  
ASUO President

Natalie Fisher  
ASUO External Vice President