



Neil Bryant, Chair
Higher Education Coordinating Commission
255 Capitol Street NE, Third Floor
Salem, OR 97310

July 25, 2018

Dear Chair Bryant and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Associated Students of Cascades Campus (ASCC) I am writing to urge your reconsideration of the ranking process used to evaluate the Student Success Center at OSU Cascades. As a student at OSU-Cascades, I can assure you that the Student Success Center will be an integral part of the campus and will enable students like me to succeed.

The Student Success Center will provide valuable student spaces, including classrooms, study and tutoring space, advising and counseling services, space for students to display art pieces, collaborative space for students, and student involvement such as a multi-cultural center.

Our campus currently has limited space for students. We have a total of 5 single study rooms and even fewer meeting rooms. Tutoring space is limited to one room in our small library. It is cramped and frequently unavailable. Space for counseling services is desperately needed so we can provide students with the help they need during a stressful term. Our space for displaying student art is limited to the cafeteria where only a few pieces can be displayed at a time for a short period before being switched so other art pieces can be displayed.

We currently have no space for a multi-cultural center. While I appreciate the Commission's advocacy in this important area, we need space for our identity-based clubs on campus including the Multicultural Club and the Equal Rights Alliance. This building would enable meeting rooms for student organizations. As you know, extracurricular activities are a critical component to establishing a community and promoting student success.

Over the last academic year, students like me have already invested nearly \$200,000 in student fees to match state funding for this building. In spring 2017, we voted for a \$50 increase in our quarterly fees to start paying for the building. To date, each of us has already paid \$150 of our own money to help fund this building. Although I will have already graduated before the construction of this building, I know that my fellow and future students will be grateful. "Paying it forward" is a time-honored characteristic of OSU students, but we also need the state to do its share. And that is why we are asking the HECC to consider the importance and unique circumstances presented by the Student Success Center at OSU-Cascades.

I urge you to reconsider the rankings and adjust the scoring for this vital building to reflect the unique situation of a new, growing campus. The services this building will provide are greatly needed and crucial to our success.

Thank you,

Cygnus Simpson
(They/Them/Their)
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