



April 23, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey and members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee,

On behalf of the Associated Students of Cascades Campus (ASCC) we are writing to urge your support of the Student Success Center at OSU-Cascades. As students at OSU-Cascades, we can assure you that the Student Success Center will be an integral part of the campus and will enable students like me to succeed.

Many students at OSU-Cascades would not have the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree without the presence of a local university. Nearly sixty percent of us come from Central Oregon, and nearly a third of us are first generation college students. A fifth of us identify as BIPOC and **over one third of us are Pell Grant eligible**. We believe it is critical for rural, first generation and minority students to have access to locally accessible post-secondary educational facilities in order 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, a veteran's center, and student involvement such as a multi-cultural center.

Our campus currently has limited space for students. This has been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. We currently have no space for a multi-cultural center and no space for our identity-based clubs on campus including the Multicultural Club and the Equal Rights Alliance. The food pantry on campus is located in a space shared by several other student units. As you know, having space for these types of services is a critical component to establishing a community and promoting student success.

We feel affirmed to see that the HECC's 2019 10-year Strategic Capital Development Plan acknowledges the current need for additional capacity at OSU-Cascades. It recognizes that student support space is particularly lacking, and that we have a **current overall space deficit of 36 percent**.

It is important to emphasize that the students of OSU-Cascades voted to increase their student fees in order to contribute \$5 million towards the Student Success Center. This is a significant match to the \$13.8 million being requested from the state, and a powerful statement of the

importance of this building to us. This is the **fifth legislative session in a row** we have asked the Legislature to support this project and we are continuing to pay our fees because this project is important to our students and the larger Central Oregon region. To date, we have contributed over \$2.1 million in student fees toward this project. We are anxiously waiting for the state to help us succeed.

We urge you to support our new, growing campus. The services this building will provide are greatly needed and crucial to our success.

Thank you,

Taha Elewafati

ASCC President

ascc.president@osucascades.edu

Elizabeth Banderas

ASCC Vice President

ascc.vp@osucascades.edu

Madeline Gwynn

ASCC Director of Legislative Affairs

ascc.legislature@osucascades.edu