



May 10, 2021

Dear Co-Chair Rayfield and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

We are writing as student leaders with the Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU) to urge your support of the Student Success Center for our fellow students and colleagues attending the OSU Cascades branch campus, as well as much-needed maintenance to Cordley Hall in Corvallis, and investment in the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) and Public University Support Fund (PUSF).

Nearly a decade ago, the Corvallis campus began work on the Student Experience Center, which now houses not only the offices for ASOSU, but also the Ettihad Cultural Center, our student media, and a multitude of student activities, including a craft center. In addition to these functions, it provides a common area for students to study, gather, and hold events on campus.

When students invested in this building, they were addressing unmet needs on OSU's main campus. With less space and smaller facilities in Bend, these needs are amplified on the Cascades campus, which provides local opportunity for higher education to students of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, including the nearly a third of whom are first-generation students. Bend's students have invested over \$2.16 million in student fees toward the Center.

Cordley Hall in Corvallis provides a significant amount of space for lectures and research on campus, but is badly in need of repairs. Despite serving thousands of students, the building has yet to be renovated since its construction in 1950.

Both these projects are in Governor Brown's recommended budget, and we strongly urge your support. At the same time, we recognize that as we slowly return to normal operations, facilities are far from the only challenge that students face in accessing higher education. An investment of \$900 million in the PUSF would help maintain services and keep the cost of tuition in check.

The continually rising cost of public colleges and universities presents a challenge to first-generation and low-income students more now than ever. Considering the unique challenges faced by Oregon students at this juncture, we believe the Oregon Student Association's ask of \$290 million for OOG is the right choice at this time, and humbly request your support for Oregon's students during these difficult circumstances.

Thank you,

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