

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the Senate Rules Committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am here today to ask you to pass SB 854, and the -2 amendments along with it.

The provisions of this bill are about ensuring proper student and stakeholder access to our boards of Trustees, which will benefit the relationships between students and on campus decision makers, and help build better trust in our institutions.

As incoming Vice President of the ASUO and as an executive committee member for the Oregon Student Association, I have seen the inner workings of on campus decisions, and can tell you we have an opportunity to do better. Provisions such as ensuring board members have publicly available emails so students can reach them, and ensuring that the secretary of the board is a neutral party rather than holding conflicting interests as a member of administration, who is just one unique and very powerful stakeholder among many stakeholders on campus are common sense good policy, and can be painlessly implemented.

There are naturally times when students disagree with administrators, or even board members. That's a healthy part of any institution. There are also many times when we all can come together for the betterment of the institution as a whole. What SB 854 does is make small tweaks to our existing framework in order to facilitate good relationships and ensure student needs are met. Time and time again, we have seen the lack of transparency from the governing board at our universities and SB 854 would only strengthen the relationship between the board and students. We care about the decisions being made at all levels of governance and I hope this committee can support us by voting yes on SB 854

Sincerely,

Odalis Aguilar Aguilar