

Submitter: Jim Aiken
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education
Measure: HB3427

Oregon Legislature is again interfering with how University Athletic departments make decisions, but in this discriminatory bill by my State Representative should also come with money for the University of Oregon which this bill is basically directed at! OS will not garner an offer from the Big 10 nor the Big 12, because they are not a value-added School for either conference, requires too much in academic subsidies if they did and the AD is nowhere near being self-sufficient. Meantime in order to get bonds to EXPAND AUTZEN stadium in 1999 University of Oregon agreed to no Academic Money (General Fund money) for the Athletic Department, to run with a balanced budget, and maintain compliance with Oregon's "Equal opportunity in Education Law" for women's sports without any subsidies. Representative Paul Evans disappoints me as I bet he and you have failed to do any real research to see why University of Oregon has the right to leave the Pac 12,10,8 without consulting the Legislature based solely of lack of state funding of Athletic Department operations since 1999. If Legislature want that control over the University of Oregon Athletic Department; then pony up the same academic money that OS has put in it's AD since 1999, as reported to the NCAA in the form of subsidies and bring balance between the two schools and eliminate the discriminatory practices in state funding of College Athletics! 11 of 12 State Universities has academic money subsidizing sports! My remedy is that you first actually do a forensic audit of where all the Money spent in Athletic Department operations at OS comes from since 1999 and that you should commit that same amount of money to the University of Oregon in the form of either a direct payment on the bond that was used to build Matthew Knight Arena which replaced the 80 year old Mac Court (built by student funds in 1927) or in the form of fully funded Scholarships for Women's Sports.

If the Pac 12/10 dissolves and Oregon stays attached to OS, rather than allowed to join without hesitation another conference, and still gets no state funding (General fund Dollars), Oregon not only loses 15% to 25% of yearly TV revenue, both schools lose a portion of their fan base you have essentially decided to end State of Oregon's position in the current college sport model. What you have basically decided if OS cannot compete; neither should Oregon! Which I guess I should not be surprised as the legislature has failed to provide innOvative leadership since the passage of Measure 5 and Super Majority voting which essentially makes Oregon a Minority run state as for an example the Walkout by Republicans session prior to Labor Day Fires left Fire Fighting funds from being distributed allowing the fires to do even more damage as not enough men and material were not available from the start of the fire. Only a few Republicans were punished for their walkout as unfortunately their homes and friends' homes were destroyed!

With all the problems academic, housing, properly trained police, and developing an appropriate positioned economic drivers should get the attention and focus of this legislature and not the meddling in sports programs where the state really has no vested interest financially.

I highly doubt you can tell me with a straight face you understand what is going on here; you are just basically following OS Donors who don't want to recognize that OS cannot compete without funding. So where will OS get funding?

Table this bill and end discussions until you actually have all the facts instead of backroom deals and conversations!

Thank you

James Aiken