March 16th, 2021

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

The President’s Commission on the Status of Women (PCOSW) is trusted to advocate for, support, and promote the well-being, development, and advancement of all OSU women.

As such, we are concerned with the recent information and response to the Husch Blackwell LSU Title IX Review by President Alexander and the Board of Trustees. Amongst our concerns, is a lack of acknowledgment of Oregon State University’s troubled history of responding to sexual violence and harassment.

PCOSW stands in support of the Open Letter to Survivors published by the Survivor Advocacy & Resource Center, Student Health Services, Counseling & Psychological Services, and the Hattie Redmond Women & Gender Center. PCOSW believes survivors. PCOSW supports survivors. Survivors deserve transparency and accountability for adequate support resources and reporting lines that are free of conflict of interest.

PCOSW has higher expectations for the relationships and funding being provided to Title IX and survivor support services. For example, it is concerning that during the March 15 faculty forum, President Alexander stated that he just became aware of the number of staff with the Survivor Advocacy & Resource Center at OSU. Our expectations of a presidential leader are that they proactively inform themselves of systemic flaws and are awaiting word of a concrete plan to do so at Oregon State.

Our calls to action to the OSU Board of Trustees, the president, and all OSU leaders are to enact the following:

- Launch a comprehensive, independent, outside investigation and review into the system of policies and procedures of OSU’s Title IX reporting and support for survivors at OSU, in consultation with Survivor Advocacy & Resource Center, Equal Opportunity and Access, and through an open call to survivors to be completed and publicly posted no later than December 2021.
- Commit to a concrete plan to improve policies, procedures and meeting funding needs for Title IX reporting and survivor support services by July 2022 based on the investigation findings and through input from SARC, EOA, and other pertinent affinity groups.
- Affirm the role of affinity groups on campus and be transparent about the path to creating institutional change.
- Review and renovate the vetting and hiring process for the OSU President to be posted on the OSU website and enacted for future hiring to ensure transparency and to establish trust in the process.

Whether it is acknowledged or not, harm has been done to the OSU Community and OSU’s reputation. OSU’s leadership must address how it proposes to repair the relationship with our campus community if President F. King Alexander remains in the president’s role.

Thank you for your time and energy. We anticipate a further response from our general membership in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

PCOSW Leadership Team

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