

Stuart, Marcia

From: Sherri Gates <sv_gates@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:37 AM
To: Trustees
Subject: Tuition Hike Vote

Dear Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hello, and I hope this finds you all in good health. I will be short and brief.

I have two students that attend OSU. One is on her own and we pay school. She works over 30 hours, has a required internship, and takes 15 credits. She is working so hard to get done because of the cost burden. My other student is at home and takes 17 credits. While we all would love him to move out, he and we just can't afford it. We did save for college and are ok most of the time. We have sold our rental and use this money for school. We make above the level to receive any FAFSA funding and are not millionaires.

Recently, I was called by Beaver Nation to ask about retaining my Women's Basketball seats. To help out with the athletes, a \$50 donation was added on. This was not a request, it was part of keeping my seats. Now, I go to many fundraisers for all sorts of things and I go because I am drawn to donate, not required. No one organization called me and asked if my two students needed a donation. I understand the need for funding your athletics. Hopefully, a good percentage will go on to greater things. However, I only have two kids in school and if the hike goes into effect, we too might have to decide who will get our funding,

I put myself through school in the California State system, worked very many hours, owed many dollars when I was done and barely graduated. I put my spouse through undergrad and graduate school. We both were in the military and his AF Reserve paid a small percentage, but we still paid off loans for 15 years after. We will not allow our children to take on such a burden in this very uncomfortable political atmosphere. You too should be ashamed of yourselves if you encourage loans. You all know they don't grow a persons character, just the banks profits.

I realize you have burdens. Maybe you can start with a few cuts. Most of the students at OSU will never even see the kind of money most of the upper executives make in a month, in their entire lifetime. So reality aside, look to better strategies. I have lived on less than \$35 a week and survived. It might be a little hard for you all to understand, but loosing most of your hard working, driven, underprivileged students due to cost, does not do you much justice. Its not a numbers game, its a quality game. Ask any of your coaches.

Sincerely,
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" A large proportion of our constant activity distracts us from remembering that we are guest of the universe, to whom one life has been given. You are dragged away from true belonging."

John O'Donohue