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Sent: Sunday, April 16, 2017 10:41 AM

To: Trustees <Trustees@oregonstate.edu>

Subject: Letter from a Collective of Students

Hello members of the Board,

I was asked in behalf of a collective of students to share with you a signed letter that students wrote with the intention of sharing with news outlets and fellow students. They would also like it to be seen by members of the board. The sentiment expressed reflects a large population of students, both undergraduates and graduates alike.

On March 17th, following the conclusion of public testimony, we and several other Oregon State community members insisted on a democratic process before the OSU Board of Trustees officially voted on a tuition measure. Where some may find our demand for democracy misplaced, we believe that those most impacted by decisions should be at the center of governing processes.

The Board is an unelected governing body and has no real accountability. The majority of the Board is composed of people who are not directly affected by the decisions it imposes. Many of them do not even live in Corvallis or nearby towns. The Board continuously votes to give pay increases to upper-level administrators already making six-figure salaries while simultaneously voting for tuition increases, cuts to underfunded programs and departments, and furloughs on teachers and staff at the bottom of the university income-ladder. We need more student, staff, and faculty representation on the Board, specifically from underrepresented communities.

Over the past two years we have provided public testimony at each Board of Trustees meeting, a few of us sit on the Student Budget Advisory Council, we even attended the Finance and Administration Committee meetings during summer break in 2016, and we have been meeting with university officials and individual Trustees to communicate our concerns. All to no avail; these decision-makers did not listen. The Board continued to raise tuition, maintaining its pattern of raising tuition every academic year for nearly 20 consecutive years. Numerous officials and insiders made it

clear they were poised to increase tuition again during their meeting on Friday the 17th. For these reasons, we insisted on democracy.

Any cuts that need to be made should come from administrative spending, the highest paid salaries (including the egregious costs of a single football coach bringing in nearly \$3 million a year), and not from faculty and staff salaries or student services. Students, lower-level staff and faculty need more authority on how university funds are allocated. Nothing less than a redistribution of resources, and a transformation of university priorities is necessary. Oregon State is not powered by Orange; Oregon State is powered by students, staff, and faculty.

Signed:

A collective of indignant students.