To All Students of Oregon State University:

On Tuesday, February 10, 2015, the Student Incidental Fee Committee rejected the Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU) 2015-2016 budget request to provide for the additional growth of ASOSU SafeRide—one of ASOSU’s fastest growing and most widely used programs. Included in ASOSU’s Budget Request and decision packages were:

1. Funds to support the hiring of a professional staff member who can help support the over 60 employees of ASOSU SafeRide. The hiring of this position will dramatically improve our ability to train and support SafeRide employees. The cost is $1.03 per student per term.
2. Funds to phase in additional SafeRide vans over. Adding three vans over the course of next year will dramatically improve our already long wait times and allow us to serve the over 40% of rides that cancel because of their wait time. The cost to students is $3.32 per student per term.

To date, ASOSU SafeRide has witnessed unprecedented growth. Just two years ago, the program was operating three (3) vans and making less that 100 completed rides on most nights. Today, the program operates five (5) vans and is completing, on average, over 250 rides each night. (With the number of completed rides often approaching 400 students on busy nights.)

To maintain current operations and plan for growth, SafeRide needs additional funding to keep up with the demand of students who use our service—often nightly. The Student Incidental Fee Committee’s failure to recommend necessary funding for SafeRide will require ASOSU SafeRide leadership to make changes in how we currently operate the program under these financial constraints.

Unfortunately, when the need of a program increases, as dramatically as ours has, and funding is not prioritized, budget authorities must look at areas internally to help shoulder the hit. This means:

1. Potential changes in hours of operations, which limits the number of students who can use our service.
2. Potential reductions in the number of student employees and the trainings that we are able to provide to our team.
3. Potential reductions in the numbers of van operated and the number of passengers we are able to pick up. This will also cause are wait times to increase.

These are very real costs for our program and the students that count on our service nightly. We are committed to working with the entirety of the student body to prioritize campus safety.

Best regards,

Taylor D. Sarman
ASOSU, President
Mission of ASOSU SafeRide

SafeRide is a service dedicated to providing safe rides home or to campus safely and without judgment.

Charts Depicting Program Growth

The chart below shows average ridership by night of the week for current term and previous five terms.

The chart below shows the growth of ASOSU SafeRide from Fall term of this year to our current operations for Winter term.

* = First week of Daylight Savings Time  ** = Thanksgiving Week