Resolution To Oppose Tuition Hikes and Call On the State of Oregon to Reform Budget Priorities

WHEREAS Oregon spends on $4,331 per student on its two major research intuitions and,

WHEREAS this puts us 46th in the nation among states in terms of research institution funding per student and,

WHEREAS the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gave Oregon an “F” for higher education affordability and,

WHEREAS at this current rate of 8% annual tuition hikes and an assumed 3% inflation rate, a baby born today in Oregon can expect to pay over $16,000 in constant dollars just for tuition at the age of 18 and,

WHEREAS if household incomes in Oregon remain as stagnant as they have for the last two decades, then these constant fee hikes will place an increasingly severe burden on households struggling to join or stay in the middle class, and

WHEREAS persistent unemployment in rural areas means students from struggling rural communities may be especially hard hit by these trends, and

WHEREAS these trends exacerbate the effects of systemic inequalities already hurting working class families, families of color, immigrant families, non-traditional families and many others, and

WHEREAS the baseline state funding proposed by governor Kitzhaber for Prison Operations remains several hundred million dollars greater than the baseline state funding proposed for the Oregon University System and,

WHEREAS much of this corrections spending covers incarcerating members of multiple generations for non-violent crimes.

WHEREAS our society’s “justice” system has been thoroughly documented as systematically racist such that prominent academics now refer to it as “Jim Crow 2.0”, and
WHEREAS higher education in Oregon and nationwide must now compete with the New Jim Crow apparatus to secure shrinking funds, and

WHEREAS the current cohorts of students must somehow pay off over one trillion dollars in personal student debt, and

WHEREAS we are also implicitly expected to pay down the national debt, prop up Social Security and Medicare, and compete in increasingly internationalized markets while inheriting underfunded infrastructure, and

WHEREAS we must accomplish all of this amidst rapidly destabilizing global climates and ecosystems,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE ASOSU THAT:

That the Associated Students of Oregon State University calls on the State of Oregon to increase baseline funding for the Oregon University System to match the baseline operational funds provided to the State’s Correctional System, and

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE ASOSU THAT:

That the Associated Students of Oregon State University calls on the State of Oregon to pass all the recommendations of the Commission on Public Safety presented to Governor Kitzhaber.
Sponsored By:
Matthew Palm, Graduate Representative

Co-Sponsored By:

Approved by:
Jacob Vandever, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________
Dan Cushing, ASOSU Vice-President
Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________
Amelia Harris, ASOSU President
Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE ASOSU THAT:
ASOSU calls on Oregon State University to support Tuition Equity in the state of Oregon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:
All high school graduates in Oregon, regardless of documentation status, are to be eligible for in-state tuition at all seven public universities in Oregon.

Sponsored by:
Thomas Bancroft, Senator