

July 21, 2015

Budgeting for UO's Academic Reputation: A Petition of Faculty

We, the undersigned faculty, are deeply concerned about budget prioritization at the University of Oregon. Budgets are not neutral: they reflect and perpetuate priorities. We believe the budget priorities of the last dozen years have hamstrung the true mission of our university. We urge you, as our representative on the Board of Trustees, to convey to your fellow Board members the importance of a budget that puts the academic excellence of our university first.

Last year there was a large revenue surplus, and unrestricted reserves in the General fund exceeded \$106 million (with additional restricted reserves of \$110 million). According to forensic accountant Howard Bunsis, these growing reserves are also boosted by increased support from the state, stable tuition income, and very favorable first-time ratings by two leading national bond agencies. Video and slides from his presentation are available on the United Academics website.

Yet numerous contradictions are apparent: inexplicable structural imbalances and transfers between schools and colleges; heavy and unexplained legal fees; austerity for top-notch graduate programs; disinvestment from core academic divisions; new cuts to library resources; and tours around campus by top administrators describing impending budgetary doom. At the same time, administrative positions and salaries expand, and the Athletic Department faces no comparable call for austerity or shared sacrifice. Just last week the Administration once again proposed a cut in real income for faculty, as USA Today reported, the UO led the nation last year in athletics revenues while maintaining a \$2.5 million subsidy from the academic budget.

A one-year "deficit" has been presented as a justification for austerity, despite the \$10 million surplus over the biennium, and cash reserves which have doubled in 5 years. The CAS deficit is treated as a fact of nature, while it actually comes from a budget model and subsequent decisions by central administration that lack clarity and transparency. Reacting to short-term deficits with austerity to academic programs, libraries, and faculty erodes long-term academic excellence.

The budget model now in place stresses student majors to determine where funds flow on campus and diminishes general education courses, minors, and certificates as criteria for allocating those funds. This new system is causing confusion for its lack of transparency and dislocation in student registration for non-major courses.

As a whole, these decisions severely curtail the activities germane to our education and research mission and our status as an AAU research institution, and yet this is happening without the transparency and oversight appropriate to a public institution.

Faculty understand that strengthening our academic core builds the long-term reputation of our programs and inspires students, parents and alumni. Faculty know that we must work within budgetary constraints; the problem is that the conditions that create these constraints are not clear either to us or to the public

We ask you to push for a fully transparent budget—including a detailed explanation of the budget model—so that the instructional and research mission of Oregon's flagship university are front and center.

Your concerned constituents,

Jean Nelson
Dr. Tina Starr
Astra Henner
David Luebke
Sergio Rigoletto
Sander M. Goldberg
Lanie Millar
Andre Djiffack
Gina Herrmann
Laurie A Graham
Pat Curtin
Mark Quigley
Daniela Vallega-Neu
Darrin Divers
Philip Scher
Alex Dracobly
Amanda Doxtater
Bonnie Ullmann
Andrew Goble
Zhuo Jing-Schmidt
William Rossi
Margaret Sereno
Jim Palandri
Yvonne Braun
Anne Forrestel
Gina Psaki
Tanya Sheehan
Michael Taormina
Idit Shner
Larry Wayte
Mike Urbancic
Crystal Dehle
Diane Baxter
Harinder Khalsa
Deborah A Green
Andrew Noonan
Alexandre Albert-Galtier
William Toll
Gerald Berk
Kristin Yarris
Brian Butler

Neil Johnson
Derrick Hindery
Christine L. Sundt
Kathleen Horton
Bruce Evans
Linda Fuller
Tyrras Warren
Seth May
Jenifer Presto
Forest (Tres) Pyle
Eric Mentzel
Eileen Otis
Colin Ives
Julie Voelker-Morris
Roxann Prazniak
Gordon Sayre
Esther Jacobson-Tepfer
Tom McDonnell
Scott R Maier
Analisa Taylor
Julie Weise
Constance Dickey
Deborah Healey
Timothy J. Williams
Bryan Moore
Simone DaSilva
Carl Bybee
Gordon Hennesy
Richard A. Sundt
Ocean Howell
Carl Woideck
David Turner
Laurie de González
Amy Costales
George Rowe
Craig Parsons
Mary Jaeger
Garron Hale
Daniel HoSang
Loren Kajikawa
Reuben Zahler

Lance Robertson
Frank James
Joe Harwood
Randy Blazak
Jennifer Freyd
Patrick Greiner
Trevor Whitbread
Greg McLauchlan
Michael Peixoto
Elizabeth A. Bohls
Ryan Light
Miriam Gershow
Anne Laskaya
Lydia Van Dreel
Warren Gerald Gast
Joanna Goode
Dr. Alan Shanks
Richard W. Albin
Sandra Clark
Ellen Herman
Nancy Bray
Angela Montague
Dean E. Mundy
Jan Hodder
Daniel Wojcik
Nora Terwilliger
Randy Sullivan
Dorothee Ostmeier
Roland Good
Michael Hames-Garcia
Daniel Steinhart
Masami Kawai
Nancy Y. Cheng
Robert Haskett
Marc Arndt
Sierra Dawson
Tara Gabsi
Joseph Fracchia
Marsha Weisiger
Hanan Elsherif
Heidi Kaufman

Seth Petersen
Sherie Henderson
Karen Esquivel
Spike Gildea
Karen Creighton
Christopher Ellis
Yasumasa Shigenaga
Fritz Gearhart
Yen Tran
Keli Yerian
David Wacks
Edward Adamson
Nathan Whalen
Lucien Brown
David Reis
Sara Lewis
Gerald Gast
Henry Alley
Benjamin Hansen
Lynn Stephen
Jaye Barlous
Michael Furtado
Tereza Ormsby
Deborah Olson
Kenneth Watkins
Caroline Emmons
Jack Boss
Professor Dianne Dugaw
Michael Stern
Matthew Dennis
Eric Pakulak
Karen McPherson
Michael Najjar
Rocio Zambrana
Cynthia Vakareliyska
Heather Moore
Michael Stoolmiller
Britt Johnson
Donald Genasci
Grace Richards
Ana Maurine Lara

Amalia Gladhart
Jesus Sepulveda
Joanna Smith
Stephen Wooten
Mark Alfano
Mayra Bottaro
Debra Merskin
James Harper
Douglas Beauchamp
Jean Stockard
Jack Maddex
Prof. James W. Earl
Daniel Pope
Carol Silverman
Gretchen Soderlund
Terry Takahashi
Hector Tobar
Janis C. Weeks, Ph.D.
William M. Roberts
John Postlethwait
Malcolm Wilson
Franklin Stahl
Royce Myers
Shankha Chakraborty
Katya Hokanson
Jill Ann Harrison
Alfredo Burlando
Ibrahim Gassama
Steven Brown
Sarah Cate
Josh Razink
Walter Kennedy
Greg Bryant
Roy Chan
Bonnie Mann
Peter Lambert
Holly Paddock
Lisa Mazzei
Trond Jacobsen
Steven Shankman
David Steinberg

Marie Vitulli
Richard Chartoff
Carol Stabile
Tina Boscha
Brian Klopotek
Katy Brundan
Ben Saunders
Mark J. Van Ryzin
Neva Nicolato
Cristina Calhoon
Kenneth S. Calhoon
Kristi Potter
Craig Kauffman
Corbett Upton
Luke Habberstad
Sandra Morgen
Jeff Todahl
Victoria Mitchell
Ruth J. Bichsel
Michel T. Waller
Lauretta De Renzo-Huter
Alison Lau Stephens
Pedro Garcia-Caro
Bruno Kamps
Michael Allan
Fred Hervert
Brendan O'Kelly
Erin Hanna
Nathan Tublitz
Erin Beck
Shauna Riedel-Bash
Elizabeth Wheeler
Kari Norgaard
Nathanael Andrade
Julie Hessler
Heather Quarles
Jeffrey E. Hanes
Monique Rodrigues Balbuena
Heidi von Ravensberg
Fabienne Moore
Randall McGowen

Ina Asim
Jeffrey A. Cina
Barbara Byrd
Juanita Devereaux
David Woken
Edward Davis
Viriam K. Khalsa
Monica Zikpi
Mark Whalan
Mary Wills-Gordon
Cecilia Kirk
Lamia Karim
Jessica Dinneen
Stephen J. Shoemaker
John Davidson
Kirby Brown
Chris Sinclair
Amanda Powell
Trevor Langston
Paulo Henriquez
Mark Hamilton
Lara Bovilsky
Carol Silverman
Marc Vanscheeuwijck
Kelley León Howarth
Michael Dreiling
Winnie Kerner

Madonna L. Moss
Doris Payne
Melissa A. Redford
Scott DeLancey
Mokaya Bosire
Vsevolod Kapatsinski
Cory Browning
Kaori Idemaru
Glynne Walley
E Landry Smith
Ying Tan
Tiffany Gallicano
Gordon Lafer
Tom Lininger
R. Glenn Mittermann
Kathleen Stroud
P. Lowell Bowditch
Bryna Goodman
Sarah Douglas
Virginia Lo
Antonella Antonelli
Warren Ginsberg
Alison Groppe
Steve Vacchi
Stephen Rodgers
Milagro Vargas

Jane Cramer
Alai Reyes-Santos
Alex Mathas
Margret Gries. Ph. D.
Ann B. Tedards
Erica Elliott
Merle Weiner
Serge Faumont
Melanie Williams
Joe Lowndes
Gloria Zabala
Julie Chouinard
Anita Chari
Bill Harbaugh
Lisa Gilman
Kevin May
Reza Rejaie
Mark Eischeid
Thersa J May
Ann Zeidman-Karpinski
Alice Barkan
Peter O'Day
Rita J Honka
Michael Strain
Nathalie Hester
Macarena Tejada-Lopez