



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

May 1, 2015

Professor Robert Kyr
Senate President
University Senate

Dear President Kyr:

I am writing in response to *Senate Legislation 13/14-31 regarding Payments by Athletic Department for General Academic Purposes*.

As I shared with the University Senate in my remarks on April 8, 2015 this legislation addresses an issue that is not under the senate's purview. This legislation concerns non-academic areas and seeks to exert control over athletics budgeting. The university has a clear and effective budgeting process that is overseen by the Provost's Office with input from the Vice President for Finance & Administration and the Vice-Provost for Budget and Planning. This process includes advice and council from a 22 person Budget Advisory Group comprised of faculty, students and staff. The Senate Budget Committee has also provided advice and input on university budget issues. For these reasons, I request the senate withdraw the motion.

As I have stated, I support each faculty member's academic freedom to express thoughts and ideas about the role of athletics in higher education. I am open to engaging, receiving input, and hearing concerns from the University Senate and other campus constituents about student athletes' education and welfare. I also encourage our campus to be involved in the budgeting processes and committees on campus. While I do not welcome legislation that seeks to exert *control* over university finances, I do welcome the opportunity to share information about the university and athletic department's financial situation.

It is critically important that the university leave no stone unturned in exploring budgeting efficiencies, sustainable financial practices and careful stewardship of taxpayer and tuition dollars. Athletic Director Rob Mullens has provided me and the vice president for finance and administration (VPFA), Jamie Moffitt, with an overview of the athletics financial landscape (attached). This document outlines the financial success, stability and independence the department has created due to its unprecedented success and visibility. This athletics document, coupled with our other budgeting processes, has provided me with confidence that our current budgeting course is appropriate and strong.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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I believe that our strong athletics program is an asset that provides many benefits to our collective campus including building relationships with our many community partners, and inspiring donors to make major contributions to our university. Those contributions to athletics do not undermine the academic mission of the university, but rather create bridges to our academic mission.

I remain committed, now as interim president and in July when I return to my provost position, to continuing to look for ways to boost resources for academics in support of our mission of education, research and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scott Coltrane", followed by a horizontal line.

Scott Coltrane
Interim President
University of Oregon