



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

Senate Education Committee
Senate Bill 113
February 17, 2015
Testimony of Dr. José Padín, President

Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Committee on Education, My name is Dr. José Padín. I am the elected President of the Oregon Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). My work as elected President of the Oregon AAUP is volunteer service on behalf of our students and our universities. I am an Associate Professor of Sociology at Portland State University, and have been an educator in Oregon for 19 years.

The Oregon Conference of the American Association of University Professors, on behalf of its collective bargaining faculty chapters at University of Oregon and Portland State University, and on behalf of our faculty members across Oregon, is here to express strong support for Senate Bill 113.

We support SB 113, which requires public Universities to report to the Oregon public the number, and the average wages of, all employees at the Universities, in all categories of employment, because we believe in the value of transparency. We believe the Oregon public has a right to know how much of their tax dollar, and Oregon students and families have a right to know how much of their tuition dollar, is spent on education—and how much is being spent on growing ranks of administrators with extraordinary and rapidly-growing salaries.

At our universities we have seen, over the last decade, rising higher education costs and mounting, crushing, student debt. University administration bloat is a real problem and it comes at the expense of reduced funding and support for the classroom; it undermines educational quality.

As we are all painfully aware, Oregon is 46th or 47th of the states in funding higher education. We need to change that, but in the meantime, SB 113 will allow the Oregon public, Oregon students, Oregon educators, Oregon policy-makers, and administrators of Oregon public universities to keep track of where our higher education dollars are going, and will allow us to make necessary corrections, if and when, the reports required by SB 113 show that too much of our higher education dollar is going to administration and not education.

To conclude, I would like to share the fact that this year the American Association of University Professors is celebrating 100 years of defending academic freedom and educational integrity—the pillars of the great American university. The Oregon Conference of the AAUP is a new part of the American Association of University Professors, and we started it to give Oregon faculty a stronger and more unified voice. I would like to thank you for your interest in elevating the quality of higher education for Oregonians. In that endeavor, you can count on the support of the American Association of University Professors, Oregon Conference, every step of the way.

For further information, contact:

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