



**To: President Nagi Naganathan, Interim Provost Hesham El-Rewini, Dean Neslihan Alp, Dean Nate Bickford, Vice President John Harman, Vice President Mandi Clark, Vice President Ken Fincher**

**From: Portland-Metro Associated Students of Oregon Institute of Technology (PM-ASOIT)**

**Subject: Request for Clarity and Support on Potential Changes to Federal Education Funding**

Date: 12/4/2024

Dear esteemed members of the Oregon Tech community,

As representatives of the Oregon Tech student body, we write to express the growing concern among our peers regarding recent political developments that may directly impact our ability to afford and access higher education. During his campaign, President-Elect Donald Trump publicly announced his intent to abolish the Department of Education, raising questions about the future of federal loans, grants, and other essential resources currently provided through this department.

Given the reliance of many Oregon Tech students on federal financial aid programs, such as Pell Grants and Direct Student Loans, this proposal has caused understandable anxiety about our educational futures. While the exact feasibility and timeline of such a policy remain uncertain, it is prudent to begin preparing for potential changes that could disrupt our financial planning and access to higher education.

We respectfully request that the administration address the following:

1. **Financial Planning Resources:** Provide information and guidance for students to proactively plan for potential disruptions in federal aid, including exploring alternative funding sources.
2. **Institutional Support:** Clarify what steps Oregon Tech would take to assist students in the event of federal funding cuts or program eliminations, such as expanded institutional grants, scholarships, or payment plans.
3. **Communication Updates:** Commit to regular updates on this issue, offering transparency about how the institution is monitoring and responding to policy changes at the federal level.

4. **Proactive Advocacy and Resolutions:** Consider adopting and publishing a resolution that reinforces Oregon Tech's commitment to protecting the privacy, safety, and educational access of all students, including undocumented and financially vulnerable students.

We believe that Oregon Tech's commitment to student success and well-being includes anticipating challenges and equipping us with the tools to navigate uncertainty. By proactively addressing this issue, the administration can provide reassurance to students and affirm its dedication to supporting us in achieving our academic goals.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. While the situation remains speculative, we stress that preparation is key to mitigating potential disruption to Oregon Tech. We look forward to your response and collaboration in addressing the financial concerns of our student body.

Sincerely,



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President, PM-ASOIT



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Vice President, PM-ASOIT



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Administration Officer, PM-ASOIT



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