



March 2, 2021

Dear Members of the University Senate,

This letter serves as my response to the resolution US20/21-08, which the University Senate passed on February 24, 2021, titled “Supporting the ASUO’s decision to repurpose the student I-Fee money and opposing a new mandatory UO Fee for an athletic lottery ticket.”

I appreciate the perspectives of those who supported the resolution. Attached is a copy of a memo I submitted to the Board of Trustees with my proposal for tuition and mandatory fees for the 2021-22 academic year. You will read that I have not recommended the implementation of a new mandatory fee. Further, you will read that the UO will establish a program wherein a limited number of students will be able to purchase a discounted sports pass that will allow them access to all home football games and a certain number of basketball games, which was one of the options suggested in the aforementioned resolution. The details of this program are still in development given the relatively short timeline we had to address the change in a long-standing practice.

As my memo to the Board indicates, I am concerned about the effect of this change on the ability of our students, particularly our lowest income students, to attend sporting events. I have suggested that the ASUO consider the impacts of its decision to stop funding no-cost tickets once we get a bit of experience with this new model. I am also very concerned about the manner in which the ASUO made its decision. Our culture at the UO would suggest that such a decision be made only after extensive consultation and opportunity for feedback. That did not take place here.

I am gratified by the many voices, and clear feedback I received in my tuition and fee forum, in written comments, and in the Senate resolution and debate about the role of athletics at the University of Oregon. From time to time, I have heard some faculty and staff question the importance of intercollegiate athletics on our campus. The role of athletics in post-secondary education is a complicated issue. But one thing comes out loud and clear from our discussion of no-cost tickets—at the University of Oregon the ability of our students to attend events and support the Ducks is an important part of what drives admissions decisions and part of what makes our on-campus experience so rich and exciting. I am grateful to everyone who participated in this discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Schill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law