

*Faculty Senate Letter in Response to the Husch Blackwell LSU Title IX Review*

*March 18, 2021*

Dear Members of the OSU Community, Administration, and Board of Trustees:

Through their elected Senate, OSU faculty share in the governance of the University. According to our bylaws, the Faculty Senate shall: “(a) determine and establish the purposes of Oregon State University, formulate and evaluate policies and activities in harmony with these purposes; (b) assume responsibility for the creation, maintenance, and protection of a University environment conducive to the full and free development and preservation of scholarly learning, teaching, and research; (c) provide the means by which the administration may be apprised of representative opinion of the entire Faculty.”

In accordance with these bylaws, we issue this statement to express the representative opinion of the OSU Faculty:

We affirm OSU’s core values of accountability, diversity, integrity, respect, and social responsibility.

We acknowledge that the Husch Blackwell LSU Title IX Review, as well as the responses to this report by President Alexander and the Board of Trustees, have caused pain for many survivors in our community. We stand in solidarity with all survivors.

We believe the University’s mission is best achieved when *all* members of the community feel safe, respected, and valued.

We believe that the presence of sexual violence and harassment poses a significant threat to the full and free development and preservation of scholarly learning, teaching, and research.

We believe that an organizational culture that allows sexual violence and harassment to persist poses a significant threat to the full and free development and preservation of scholarly learning, teaching, and research.

We believe that budgets express values. We hereby advocate not only for *compliance* with Title IX legislation and reporting requirements, but also for the appropriate resourcing for the effective prevention of and response to sexual violence and harassment at OSU.

We stand in support of the Open Letter to Survivors published by the Survivor Advocacy & Resource Center, Student Health Services, Counseling & Psychological Services, and the Hattie Redmond Women & Gender Center.

We stand in support of the Letter to the Board of Trustees published by the President’s Commission on the Status of Women. We echo their call to repair the harm done to relationships within the OSU community and to OSU’s reputation.

Sincerely,

The OSU Faculty Senate