

President Hamilton and Board Chair Eyster,

I am writing to encourage you to settle a fair, equitable contract with LCC faculty as soon as is practicable. Faculty have been negotiating in good faith for nearly a year and are back teaching this fall without a contract, working on the assumption that an agreement will be reached. Decisions about internal spending have led to a disinvestment in faculty, with faculty FTE down 20% and management FTE up 9% since 2012. Outstanding issues such as health benefits, pay rates, and class sizes are crucial to these hard-working instructors and therefore to the community at large.

Lane Community College plays such an important role in our community, providing both a more affordable higher education option for Oregon students and much-needed training for technical careers. But the success of LCC and those students can only be as great as the faculty we are able to hire and retain for the long term. While pay and benefits are not the driving reason for most who enter a teaching career, we can still ensure they are being compensated well enough to support their families and to enable them to focus on their teaching.

I thank you for your consideration and urge you to come to a quick agreement.

Sincerely,

Representative Julie Fahey



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