

Date: 11/03/2025

Subject: Student Letter Supporting Fair Contract Signs

Dear members of the LCC Board of Education,

As you are likely aware, recently, the Student Government Association of Lane Community College sent a letter to be added to the documents for this meeting that calls for a policy to control, restrict, and take down lawn signs placed around campus, calling attention specifically to the teacher's union (LCCEA) "Fair Contract Now" signs. The letter claimed that the signs are "weathered, detached, or misplaced" and create "visual clutter and [detract] from student spaces." The SGA's letter also calls into question the relevance of displaying these signs on campus, implying that the signs are irrelevant to students, and union contract negotiations should be relegated to spaces primarily meant for faculty. We are submitting this letter because we do not believe that the SGA's perspective adequately reflects the true opinions and interests of the Associated Students of LCC.

As to the claim of the signs' visual impact, we believe that this is summarily untrue. The state of the signs is, with very few exceptions, near pristine, and the signs do little to detract from student spaces.

Additionally, we believe that the SGA's claim that the signs are irrelevant to the student body to be wildly inaccurate. The union's recent negotiations with the administration have deeply involved the interests of the student body, and the union has been fighting to make the campus a better, safer place for us to learn.

The administration's recent contract proposals that the union has been fighting include many provisions that would negatively impact the lives of the students that attend this school, such as:

- Increasing class sizes (up to 50%) with the possibility for more increases in the future at the sole discretion of the Administration, without faculty approval.

- Mandatory "overload classes," further increasing instructor workload and severely impacting their ability to give students the attention they deserve
- Removing protections for the on-campus health clinic, which is currently protected by the current union contract. If these protections are removed, the administration could severely interfere with, and possibly defund, the health clinic altogether
- Cutting funding for DEI curriculum and training, as well as removing requirements for management to be trained in DEI, effectively removing one of the strongest ways for our college to fight against systemic oppression in the day-to-day.
- Eliminating the requirement for the Native American Student Association coordinator and the Longhouse Steward to be two separate positions, which would likely effectively eliminate one of these positions and increase the workload of the other.

Conversely, in LCCEA's recent contract proposals, they have been fighting for:

- Increased staffing for valuable student services such as counselling, mental health, advising, and tutoring, as well as supporting the food and housing needs of our fellow students.
- Funding the development and employment of Open Educational Resources (OERs) as alternatives to expensive textbooks, thereby decreasing the cost of taking many classes at this school, and increasing the financial accessibility of this institution for lower income students.
- Instituting sanctuary campus provisions to help protect students and faculty against ICE
- Instituting protections for the academic freedom from censorship of students and faculty

If the administration's proposals were accepted, we the students would risk losing access to extremely valuable, and sometimes lifesaving, student services, as well as having the quality of our education go down and many classes that we are passionate about put at risk.

Recent moves by the administration also seem to suggest that they are trying to bypass the board and make decisions that they do not have the authority to

make, such as cutting programs and classes without the required board approval.

The union's ongoing fight for a fair contract is one of the most powerful tools currently pushing back against the administration's anti-student actions. The union's fight is therefore absolutely essential to ensuring the future of this school that we know and love. Students *need* to be aware of this fight, and framing it as an issue for faculty alone to be aware of is absurd.

If students have “expressed confusion” at the signs, as the SGA's letter claims, that speaks not in support of their removal, but as an invitation for those students to become informed of the current state of our school, and to begin to advocate for their own interests.

These signs are an essential part of the union's ability to do outreach to the students of this institution, and they are eminently relevant to each and every student that sets foot on our campus.

Additionally, the SGA's implication that these signs have overstayed their welcome, or have “exceeded their intended display period” is clearly untrue, as the LCCEA's contract negotiations are currently ongoing.

In light of these points, we, the students of Lane Community College, believe it is of the utmost importance to let the board know that **the opinion of the SGA is not representative of the viewpoints of the student body as a whole**, and urge the board to disregard the SGA's request for the regulation and/or removal of these signs.

Sincerely,

The undersigned (Students of Lane Community College):

Alanna Kolkmann
Alexandra Keedy
Aria Virde
Banyon Manson
Beatrice Olive

Bishop Foshee
Casey Beasley-Bennett
Cassandra Barrientos
Cassidy Payne
Caymen Bernard
Colin Stott
Dennis "Krueber" Gaede
Eddie Santos
Elisha Hall
Eve McKenzie
Gavin Violette
Hannah O'Connor
Helen Liu
Isaiah Wormsled
Jessica R.
Joey Helton
Jordan Dizon
Julío Velazco
Kori Nyamute
Lake Bupp
Lily Ellingson
Logan Martin
Logan Thirkill
Martin Diaz
Maxwell Britton
Morgan Easter
Nadia Plumb
Noah R.
Robin Robinson
Roman Miller
Sagegrace McKenzie
Soren Walker
Waldo Przekop