

March 16, 2021

Dear Members of the Oregon State University Board of Trustees,

Today we write to you as past and current Associated Students of Oregon State University Presidents, Vice Presidents, Speakers of the House, Senators, Representatives, SFC Chairs, SFC Members and former Board of Trustees Members on the controversy surrounding current OSU President F. King Alexander. In the past weeks, a report from the law firm Husch Blackwell¹ and reporting from USA Today² has made it clear that, while Alexander served as President of Louisiana State University, he systematically ignored and delayed addressing rampant sexual violence in LSU's football program and its campus.

If Alexander knew about the cover up of rampant issues, and did not address them, he should resign or have his contract terminated. If he served as president of the institution for 7 years and wasn't aware of the issue, he is then most certainly part of the same system of indifference, inaction, negligence and non-accountability that allowed the abuse to occur in the first place.

While this alone draws into question Alexander's ethos of judgment and leadership, there are still further concerns. After the report was released, Alexander remained silent for nearly a week before releasing a statement in response. Although Alexander admits he should have done more, he also leaves the current student body with only words to assure that their campus is safe and that all are being held accountable. Alexander did not lay out actionable next steps, at the same time using scapegoating tactics to shield himself from responsibility.

We as past and current leaders on OSU's campus will not stay quiet: it is clear that Alexander has breached the trust of the student body and the faculty union. If Alexander does not see the error in what he has done and resign, the Oregon State University Board of Trustees should terminate his contract and offer no severance or additional benefits.

When we were elected to the ASOSU office or appointed to the OSU Board of Trustees, many of us campaigned on addressing the issue of sexual violence on our campus, and spent our entire term in office working to create a more inclusive and safe campus for all. A defense of Alexander is an affront to the campus culture of accountability and respect we all worked so hard to improve.

The work of ASOSU and student leaders past and present has long-established a legacy that does not tolerate sexual violence in any form. The legislative, advocacy, institutional policy, and educational work that we centered in our time at Oregon State University stood up and supported survivors, in the same way we would always stand up for students to OSU's administration. During our time at Oregon State, we were consistently assured by former President Ed Ray that he would always listen and support students, especially when it came to

¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/105nPMzkHGuBEqRMyp8epFC9mgS3VbEfz/view?usp=sharing>

² USA Today, March 12, 2021: [LSU football, Les Miles investigation brings change, even at Kansas](#)

issues of sexual violence. We demand accountability for these actions. It is the only way Oregon State can restore the trust that it had once earned from students.

Furthermore, OSU's administration and the Board of Trustees need to demand accountability. While the Board has said they did not know of Alexander's inaction at the time of hiring, this is a reflection of an insufficient process and an abdication of responsibility. Going forward several things must happen: hiring processes for all leadership positions need a stronger investigative process on sexual violence and campus accountability while conducting a search; the administration must increase its commitment of resources to sexual violence prevention and advocacy on OSU's campus; and student advocacy and engagement must be centered when developing equitable policies and procedures. While Alexander's failures are his own, a system that fails to hold university leaders accountable for gross negligence and misconduct, and instead allows them to is also a failure. OSU must act to follow through with our values of social responsibility and respect.

From the Husch Blackwell report, and words of survivors of the sexual violence at LSU, it is clear that Alexander allowed a culture of "don't ask, don't tell" in terms of addressing sexual violence. The OSU Board of Trustees risks further damaging their relationship with the OSU campus community if they do not act to remove Alexander from office.

Signed,

Ryan Mann, ASOSU President '08-'09

Kimberly Nickerson Kelley, ASOSU VP, '08-'09

T. Brett Deedon, ASOSU President '13-'14

Victoria R. Williamson, ASOSU VP '13-'14, MU President '14-15

Taylor Sarman, ASOSU President '14-'15 OSU Board of Trustees Member, '13-'15

Cassie Huber, ASOSU President '15-'16

Lyndi Petty, ASOSU VP '15-'16

Antonio Ferrini, ASOSU Senator, '15-'16

Rachel Grisham, ASOSU President '16-'17

Brett Morgan, ASOSU VP '16-'17, OSU Board of Trustees Member, '15-'17

Breanna Irish, ASOSU Senator, '15-'17

Christine Hoang, ASOSU Senator, '15-'17

Nicholas Carleson, ASOSU Senator, '16-'17

Marquina Mendiola Hofschneider, ASOSU Senator, '16-'18

Ryan Khalife, ASOSU Senator, '16-'18

K. Raven Waldron, ASOSU Senator, '16-'18, Student Fee Committee Liaison '18-'20

Angel Mandujano-Guevara, OSU Board of Trustees Member, '17-'19

Simon Brundage, ASOSU President '17-'18

Radhika Shah, ASOSU VP '17-'18

Logan Adams, ASOSU Senator '17-'19

Josh Kaufman, ASOSU VP '18, ASOSU Speaker of the House '16-'17

Justin Bennett, ASOSU President '18-'19

Aiden Tariku, ASOSU VP '18-'19
Carol Moreno Cifuentes, ASOSU Speaker of the House, '18-'19
Rachel Josephson, ASOSU President, '19-'20
Kylie Boenisch, ASOSU VP, '19-'20
Ian Walker, ASOSU Speaker of the House, '19-'20
Safi Ahmad, ASOSU Student Fee Committee Chair, '19-'20
Brendan Lefranc, ASOSU Senator, '19-Present
Isabel Núñez Pérez, ASOSU President, '20-Present
Metzin Rodriguez, ASOSU VP, '20-Present
Min Seo Park ASOSU Student Fee Committee Chair, '20-Present
Drake Scrafford, ASOSU Student Fee Committee Liaison, '20-Present
Alexandria Granera, ASOSU Student Fee Committee Liaison, '20-Present
Muhammad Aatir Khan, ASOSU Graduate Representative, '20-Present
Matteo Paola, ASOSU Representative, '20-Present
Dhru Patel, ASOSU President-Elect, '21
Dylan Perfect, ASOSU VP-Elect, '21
Maija Linh Pham, ASOSU JC Vice Chair, '21