

**Letter Submitted by UO Student Collective to NY Times**  
**- Not published, but read at University Senate Meeting, November 1, 2017**

Students at the UO feel President Schill's actions are disrespectful and apathetic to the common good. He refuses to acknowledge and address our list of demands, instead, he continuously criticizes the means used to voice our concerns. We have no power; we have no platform outside social media. Our means to achieve our goals and be heard are different from the standards of an already powerful university president, because this is the only way we can get his attention. As Angela Davis once said in an interview from the 1970s, "When you talk about a revolution most people think violence, without realizing that the real content of any revolutionary thrust lies in the principles and the goals you are striving for." Switching the conversation to the means of power is manipulative and deceiving. The University of Oregon Students refuse to be ignored any longer.

He continuously criticizes the means; he uses that as his agenda to ignore us. Stop focusing on the means focus on the end goal, '**The list of demands**'. President Schill has continuously ignored the concerned voices of the student collective. Last spring term, the LGBTQA+3 community, on campus, occupied Johnson Hall to protest the loss of professional support staff for the organization. Max Jenson told the daily emerald, "Most of our students come to this campus because they think they are going to be a queer friendly, trans friendly school, but when they get here they are disillusioned to find that s\*\*\* like this happens". The support staff has yet to be rehired and students of the community face a disproportionate amount of disadvantages compared to other students on campus. Schill held a meeting with the protesters, but walked out because he had to attend an administrative "diversity training". He could've had a better diversity training if he stayed with the students and further discussed their concerns.

In addition to that, the student collective attended the University of Oregon (UO) board of trustees meeting, to speak out against the 10.6% tuition increase that will be charged to the students. Our voices and concerns were ignored once again. The student collective tried using multiple ways to address the issues raised in recent events. We tried to meet with Schill under his sanctions, however he refused and he continues to refuse to meet with us. He claimed that he would not meet with us because of the disruptive activities, however, it feels that his actions are aimed to control the culture of the University of Oregon (UO). He does not want to legitimize us; he does not think we are people worth talking to. He has walked out on every meeting he has had with us, including this one. Thank you for listening.

*- Read and Submitted by Caroline Crisp, member of UO Student Collective*