



News Release

May 13, 2014

Remaining College Republicans chapters in Oregon stand by the Oregon Federation of College Republicans

College Republicans chapters around the state are extremely disappointed in the Oregon State University College Republicans (OSUCR) for comments that the organization made about the Oregon Federation of College Republicans (OFCR) in a recent news release. These chapters feel as though the OSUCR's comments will damage not only the unity of the College Republicans movement in Oregon, but its credibility as well. "The statement released by the OSUCR is not only poorly written and substantively petty, but also inaccurate and even factually incorrect in some respects," says Jarrett Oseran, Chairman of the Willamette University College Republicans. "Citing such blatant falsehoods in order to gain publicity will do nothing to improve the role that young people play in the Republican Party, which should really be one of our primary goals, as College Republicans."

Oseran is referring to the charges of "leadership failures, corruption within the organization, and lack of financial oversight" that the OSUCR has levelled against the OFCR. Every chapter realizes that the OFCR's meetings are not secret. In fact, the OFCR has made it very clear that their meeting times and locations will be made available to chapters upon request. The OSUCR, however, has repeatedly failed to produce evidence of ever having made such a request.

"It is also a complete falsehood," says Brad Swendseid, Chairman of the University of Portland College Republicans and a Dr. Monica Wehby supporter, "that comments made by the OFCR Chairman, reflecting upon Rep. Jason Conger's upbringing, have ever violated the OFCR Constitution." The Chairman of the OFCR has never endorsed a particular candidate in his official capacity before the end of a primary election season. "That is what the OFCR Constitution prohibits," says Swendseid, "and there is simply no evidence to suggest that that is what the OFCR Chairman has done. It is not my hope to see the OSUCR leave the OFCR, but at this point it seems like the OSUCR leadership is using the situation more for political gain than anything else." It should also be noted that, while funds were allocated to cover the lodging of

OFCR officers at the 50th Dorchester Conference, as they hosted members of the Washington College Republican Federation, the organization never used its funds for the purpose of sending Conger supporters to the event.

The OSUCR is similarly mistaken in its analysis of the OFCR's financial situation. Namely, they are incorrect about the costs of both sending the OFCR Chairman to a College Republican National Board Meeting (\$746.60 as opposed to \$800.00—\$600.00 of which was actually approved by the OSUCR leadership) and of hosting a social event for College Republicans at the 50th Dorchester Conference (\$360 as opposed to \$618). Still, "The OFCR's leadership was confronted with a tough situation when they took office," explains Taylor Dick, Chairman of the George Fox University College Republicans. The previous group of officers made a number of personal expenditures for which they had been reimbursed, but they failed to record the distribution of these reimbursements in ORESTAR, the Secretary of State's online system for recording the financial activities of Political Action Committees like the OFCR. Because of this, the new group of officers had no choice but to update the OFCR's ORESTAR balance through a combination of late filings and cash balance adjustments—both of which unavoidably resulted in the OFCR having to pay a fee to the Secretary of State. Setting aside these adjustments and the subsequent fee, however, the OFCR has spent a total of \$2,396.71 and received a total of \$2,452.86 in contributions—including recent contributions amounting to \$1,775.00 that have yet to be deposited and thus recorded in ORESTAR—resulting in a budget surplus for the 2013-2014 academic year. "As the OSUCR points out in its statement, this was the first budget surplus in four years," says Evan Bryan, Chairman of the Eastern Oregon University College Republicans, "We're all very proud of the OFCR for this tremendous achievement."

Moreover, despite the OSUCR's assertion that "[t]he donations that the Federation receives rarely trickle down to the Chapters," the OFCR has demonstrated, on multiple occasions, that it is committed to serving as a financial resource for all of its chapters. "Even the OSUCR has taken advantage of the OFCR's financial capabilities, requesting and subsequently receiving \$358.50 from the organization for a candidate forum that they held in January," says Jordan Mortimore, Co-Chairman of the Southern Oregon University College Republicans, "Our chapter similarly requested some funds to help with our kick-off event in early April. We're very grateful for the assistance that the OFCR has provided us—it's one of their roles as an organization."

While many other chapters took issue with the OSUCR's claims that it is the "strongest...largest most active" chapter in the state, citing higher memberships (of those who regularly attend meetings) and more elaborate programming, they are mostly disappointed by the dishonesty of OSUCR's news release. "It's a shame," says Jeremiah Scott, Vice-Chairman of the Portland State University College Republicans, "At a time when it is so crucial that College Republicans around the state work together to elect Republicans and achieve their common goals, the OSUCR has chosen to spend its time underscoring division within the Party in an unprofessional

and dishonest manner. It should also be noted that the OSUCR leadership has demonstrated not only a desire to distance themselves from the OFCR, but from the other chapters as well—namely by walking out of the OFCR’s Annual State Convention several weeks ago. This is exactly the kind of fractious and immature behavior that has hindered organizations like ours from turning Oregon red in the past, and we hope that other Republican bodies and candidates running for office will consider this when deciding whose support they would like to seek in the near future.”

The remaining College Republicans chapters in Oregon approve of this message:

Evan Bryan
Chairman
Eastern Oregon University College Republicans

Taylor Dick
Chairman
George Fox University College Republicans

Gretchen Holman
Chairman
Portland State University College Republicans

Dylan Bloom
Chairman
Southern Oregon University College Republicans

Joseph Lewis
Chairman
University of Oregon College Republicans

Bradley Swendseid
Chairman
University of Portland College Republicans

Jarrett Oseran
Chairman
Willamette University College Republicans