

## Student Regent Testimony

In my time in higher education I have deeply involved myself in student government and found it to be a rewarding opportunity to help students at all levels of the university. The work we do is primarily executed through advocacy or directly giving students avenues to address the issues they would like to in a head on manner. However, at times the university does not always involve us in their processes and allow that advocacy to be had and this where we are failed as students. Now we look to the Kansas Board of Regents and see a host of sweeping decisions that are made without proper consultation and representation of students and subsequently, like at the university level, we have been failed. Budget cuts intensely effect all students and the impacts have recently been felt even more so with the ongoing pandemic. In light of this issue a reasonable way forward seems to be at least giving a single student voting rights on the Kansas Board of Regents.

The addition of a student to the board would create a greater opportunity for student voices to truly be heard and at a minimum have a vote to it so others affected by the boards policies know where students stood on such. Outside of the opportunities this position could create we have to consider how it functions in a fundamental sense. Government is meant to advocate for and act on behalf of citizens in their best interest. So why is it that we would want to prevent representative bodies for students from being able to do the same thing? At the end of the day this position would be a small minority of the Kansas Board of Regents but a vital one to ensure that students feel as though their input can be heard and valued by the Kansas government.