

Chico SQE tuition increase statement

The decision by the Board of Trustees to implement a tuition increase has sparked deep anger and sadness within the student body. This decision signifies a disconnect between the institution's governing body and the students it serves. It implies a failure to consider the fundamental right of every student to access an affordable education, which is a cornerstone of the mission of higher education institutions.

In making this decision, the Board fails to recognize and empathize with the adverse impact on specific student populations, including students of color, transfer students, and first-generation college students; these groups already face unique challenges in accessing and affording higher education. For students of color, who may already encounter disparities in access and support, tuition hikes can further widen the opportunity gap and perpetuate the system of inequality.

The institution prioritizes the interests of elite members over its moral obligation to serve all students equally. In response to these concerns, it is essential for students, faculty, and staff to engage in open dialogue with the Board of Trustees and the university administration. This dialogue can help bridge the gap in understanding and lead to more inclusive and equitable policies. Advocacy, protests, and communication channels can be used to express concerns and push for changes that align with the university's stated values.

Ultimately, this act of selfishness and negligence highlights the critical need for transparency, inclusivity, and equity in the decision-making processes of higher education institutions, especially when it comes to issues as impactful as tuition increases. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to pursue higher education without unnecessary financial burdens.