



LET KNOWLEDGE
SERVE THE CITY

Dear Campus Community,

We can no longer wait to act on climate change. While world leaders gather in Scotland for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, it is imperative that we as a campus community begin the urgent work to determine how Portland State will show up for change. We have a unique opportunity to determine how we will be distinctive in our climate work, and how we can join with partners in this region to bring a collective approach to climate action.

I believe that our university can be a leader in addressing the most complex and important challenges that face our society. Racial justice and equity remains my central strategic priority for Portland State. We know that the harm caused by climate change falls on traditionally marginalized communities and that any successful response to climate change will have equity at its core. As a community and *with* our community we can show leadership and press for innovation and solutions.

We can do this by educating our students, joining hands with our partners, and looking critically at our own operations. We will amplify the work of PSU's leading climate and social justice experts, making new connections between disciplines and staying focused on our core values. Collectively, we are uniquely poised for community-oriented climate impact.

OREGON ASSOCIATION of SCHOLARS

Nobody is waiting. Large-scale transformations of energy use are already happening and are sufficient to ensure the three degree AR6 scenario as shown in the August 2021 IPCC estimate.

The biggest drivers of emissions reductions in the United States have not resulted from “a collective approach” but from a decentralized, market-driven approach. Why the fetish for collectivism?

The purpose of a university, according to the Chicago Principles on Freedom of Expression, is “fostering the ability of members of the University community to engage in [free] debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner” because “universities exist for the sake of [free] inquiry.” It is not the job of a university president to impose his personal political ideology on the institution. Indeed, this is a gross violation of his responsibility.

Creepy. Do you mean force-feeding them climate alarmism? Will they be introduced to competing literature on the subject such as the highly-cited, peer reviewed article published in 2021 by Roger Pielke and Justin Ritchie, “Distorting the View of Our Climate Future” (*Energy Research & Social Science*)?

Is it the job of the university to promote the research of faculty based on an ideological agenda rather than on that research's measurable impact and significance?

I am grateful for the vigilance of PSU students who demand climate action. I recognize it is the younger generations that will bear the brunt of climate change. We have a unique opportunity to find solutions and equitable strategies to generate opportunities for our graduates and enhance the quality of life in our community, region, state and beyond.

Our experience at PSU tells us that we are most successful in creating impactful initiatives when the people who will implement them are actively engaged in initial explorations and planning. Therefore I am calling the campus to dialogue in multiple venues and with diverse stakeholders.

This week I am announcing a steering committee to lead us in this process. The committee members are:

[list here]

This committee will collaborate with the Deans who will host climate conversations relevant to their schools and colleges. Additional dialogues will be organized among students, researchers, potential community partners, and a group to explore the intersection of social justice and climate action.

Through these conversations, we will map our existing climate-related activity, surface

It is untrue that future generations will bear the brunt of modest climate change because future generations: (1) will be wealthier; (2) will have new technologies; and (3) will benefit from mitigation and adaptation measures being taken now. The greatest intergenerational injustice would be to impose slow growth, high taxation, and limits on freedom on the current generation beyond those measures already in place.

Do you really mean “dialogue” or rather stage-managed group-think? Will there be opportunities for members of the campus community to dispute climate alarmism claims? Will your climate action committee be charged with monitoring dissidents on campus?

All of these faculty members share the same viewpoint. Why are there no faculty members from business, economics, or engineering on this committee, surely disciplines that are far more relevant than those represented here.

What do you mean by “social justice?” Do you mean coercive collective action in service of group identities and without due regard to fairness for individuals? If so, then this “intersection” you are advocating is more like a climate version of Marxism (which may please you immensely).

opportunities for further our impact, and forge new connections across the university and within our community. The committee will use this input to design a Winter Symposium that builds opportunities for additional engagement as well as identifying promising strategies.

Portland State has an exceptional array of climate-related assets — knowledge, expertise, practice, science, public health, and humanities and so many other disciplines — all of which, together, place us as a high-impact leader for this region.

I look forward to embarking on this exciting initiative with all of you to define PSU's best opportunity to make a difference, and to plan our collective action on climate change.

Sincerely,
Stephen Percy

Among its "assets" Portland State's greatest assets include a wide variety of perspectives among students and faculty on climate change as well as library resources that provide robust debate and competing views on the subject. Are these the "assets" you have in mind?

Thank you for mentioning science, albeit in the penultimate paragraph of your bullhorn speech. If you are interested in the scientific debates on climate change, we suggest some quality time with the data-heavy work of Hoover Institution fellow Bjorn Lomborg (www.lomborg.com) or the University of Colorado scholar Roger Pielke (www.rogerpielkejr.com). A little humility and scholarly care would be a good idea before your try to stampede the campus community into mass fanaticism.