

President Young-

Thank you for a very exciting presentation on the *Tomorrow's University Today* initiative. I am excited about the movement to propel ideas from the classroom into the community, and I applaud your leadership of this movement. It is an agenda that I have followed personally, as a PhD student in Public Policy, and as an entrepreneur working to address water disinfection challenges in developing countries and disaster areas. The water monitors I have developed with two other UW PhD students are currently being tested in six countries.

I also note that during your talk you stated that the top priority this year, with no uncertain terms, is the retention and the fair compensation for the people at the university. This is a concern of mine as well, which is why I am writing today.

This year I will pay over \$1,350 in mandatory fees not included in tuition. These fees are not covered in my tuition waiver as an RA. As you know, UW pays me about \$16,000 per year as an RA, meaning that I will pay about 7.5% of my pre-tax income in fees.

This is a tremendous burden, and I would like to know how the UW plans to address it. Imagine if you were to start a job, then after signing the offer letter your employer told you that you would have to pay 7.5% of your total pre-tax income in fees right back to the employer. You would be as surprised and burdened as I am.

To be clear, \$1,350 pays my rent for several months, it is six months of my food bill, and it is several years of my utility bills. This is not extra, disposable, income that I have lying around. It is a huge chunk of my income, and paying it substantially lowers my quality of life.

I look forward to hearing how you, President Young, will also lead the UW to continue to attract and retain qualified graduate students who are so essential in the work to ensure the goals of *Tomorrow's University Today* initiative by ensuring that the UW's compensation of RAs and TAs remain competitive, and transparent. I submit to you that your leadership to ensure that tuition waivers include mandatory fees would be a tremendous step.

Respectfully- Tyler Davis

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