THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Dear Steering Committee Colleagues:

I am writing in response to the November 10th memo sent by Prof. Joel Wainwright on behalf of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (CAFR). As the Senator who made the motion on the floor of Faculty Council to request that the Science of Reading (SOR) report not be included on the November 19th Senate meeting agenda, I feel compelled to respond and respectfully request that the SOR report not move forward to the Senate floor unit January 2027.

1. My motion at the November 5th Faculty Council meeting passed with ~75% of that body voting in favor. Despite this, Prof. Wainwright suggests that CAFR has "received feedback" from Faculty Council members, students, and impacted faculty, and they expressed "overwhelming support" for the report and would like to see it taken up in Senate as soon as possible ("i.e., in November rather than January.") As an "impacted faculty," I do not agree, nor have I heard a groundswell of support for the CAFR report moving forward from within my unit. If the support is overwhelming, I have seen no evidence of this.

2. Prof. Wainwright also suggests that there is urgency to have this SOR report read out on the Senate floor in November because "there is a possibility that we may not pass the audit" and having the report in the public record will serve as a protective measure for impacted faculty, my unit, my college, and the university. On this point, I vehemently disagree. I do not think it will be protective; I am certain it could prove damaging. Few people can comprehend how hard my colleagues and I have worked to pass this audit. We have done everything in our power to respond to requests, modify our materials, and meet the expectations put forth by the Governor, the Chancellor, and the legislature. We are currently under the highest level of scrutiny with the results of the audit scheduled to be released by December 15th. I truly believe that the peril at this moment is great. Administrators and colleagues have been told explicitly and directly that if we do not pass this audit the Chancellor will shut down our programs. Bringing this report to the Senate floor will make it a news story. It will become something that the Governor (who has made derogatory comments about our OSU reading programs in public meetings I have attended) will notice. This legislation is his "legacy," and I sincerely believe that waving this red flag during his lame-duck tenure will not serve us well in the long run

3. Prof. Wainwright insists that CAFR has the right to directly report to Senate. On this point, we agree, and I would welcome and support the CAFR SOR report as an agenda item for the January Senate meeting, as I requested in my November 5th Faculty Council motion. I do not disagree that our freedom to teach as we see fit has been negatively

impacted by this audit. I concur that our academic freedom has been diminished and threatened. And I do think that this audit has occurred in ways that far exceed the norms of typical audits and reviews, such as those undertaken by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) or the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), which was just completed in early 2026. I would love to have these issues noted and addressed by OSU leadership, in collaboration with impacted faculty members, such as myself. I would also love to have the opportunity for this institution to engage in conversations with Ohio leadership, once the new administration assumes power. Indeed, if we do not pass this audit, I think we have an even stronger case to bring to Senate and to the state if we make it to December 15th and play by their rules (which we have). This will be a much more compelling "tell" as to whether this process has been ideologically driven, disproportionately focused on OSU, and outside the bounds of current law.

I have great respect for CAFR and believe wholeheartedly in the importance of academic freedom. My goal here is not to curtail the work of that committee. Nevertheless, I do not believe the memo from Prof. Wainwright requires that CAFR must be allowed to bring this report to the Senate floor in November, nor is there a requirement that these matters follow this aggressive timeline (see paragraph (C) of rule 3335-5-48.9 of the Administrative Code). Rather, I feel like this report will potentially do harm, and I feel that there are too many people's lives and livelihoods on the line for me to not make my concerns heard.

Sincerely,



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