



PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

American Association of University Professors

Promoting Quality Higher Education – An Investment in Oregon's Future

March 18, 2013

Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301
Email: Kristalyn.cassell@state.or.us

RE: Senate Bill 270-1
In Committee Thursday March 21, 2013 1pm

Dear Senator Hass and Members of the Committee,

PSU-AAUP represents the full time faculty and academic professionals at Portland State University. We have been involved in the discussions about the establishment of institutional boards since the initial discussions about House Bill 4061. Our prime concern has been that any institutional board put in place at Portland State University, or at any University in Oregon, have the faculty participation currently found on the State Board of Higher Education. As such, we were comfortable with Legislative Concept 759 and the bills from which it was created, Senate Bill 270 and House Bill 2149.

The -1 amendment to Senate Bill 270 is a significant departure from the composition we seek of any institutional board. It breaks with a long and successful tradition of faculty participation on the Oregon State of Board of Higher Education and in the shared governance structure currently in place at every level of Oregon's Universities. It creates a structure that bears no similarity in faculty participation to other important university systems like the University of California we often look for guidance (the Chair and Vice Chair of the University of California System Academic Council sit on the Board of Regents as Faculty Representatives). Most importantly, it limits the ability of any institutional board to be informed by the faculty that delivers on the mission of the University on a daily basis with students.

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On March 14, 2013 the Executive Council of PSU-AAUP voted to adopt the following position on Senate Bill 270:

Oppose unless amended to include faculty participation on the Board

We urge you to reconsider the -1 amendment and put faculty back into the governance equation.

Sincerely,
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Phil Lesch
Executive Director