



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

740 Oakway Circle, Ashland, OR 97520

May 23, 2013

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

From: Association of Oregon Faculties

Re: SB 270/HB3120 – Institutional Boards - Higher Education Governance

Co-Chair Komp, Co-Chair Monroe, and members of the committee,

The Association of Oregon Faculties (AOF) is an independent, non-union based organization representing a variety of faculty from Oregon's seven public universities located throughout the state. AOF seeks to protect and improve the working conditions and fair compensation of Oregon university faculty as well as helping to ensure that the Oregon University System gets adequate funding in the state appropriations process.

AOF would like to thank the interim Joint Special Committee on University Governance, the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee, and the House Higher Education committee, for their hard work on university governance and the issue of institutional boards. Many hours of work were done in a relatively short timeline. AOF believes there is merit in discussing these issues in an open, public process, but any changes to university governance should be considered thoughtfully and carefully.

We would like to express our strong desire and belief that adequate representation, and the ability to vote, for faculty, students, and staff on any institutional boards that may be created as a result of this work on university governance, is a necessary component of any local governance model. Faculty, student, and staff representation, and the unique insights brought by these groups, is vital to proper functioning and adequate input of key stakeholders at each university. As the committee considers SB 270, HB 3120, and higher education governance changes, AOF would also like to stress the importance of considering the Oregon university system as a whole and how any changes to governance will affect the whole university system as opposed to just individual campuses. Preserving a strong and vibrant university system is important for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Timothy Thompson
President - Association of Oregon Faculties