



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

740 Oakway Circle, Ashland, OR 97520

April 1, 2015

To: House Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development Committee

From: Association of Oregon Faculties

Re: HB 3237 – Graduate Student Representation on University Institutional Boards

Chair Read 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 House Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in *support of HB 3237*. There have been many sweeping changes to Oregon's higher education system in the past several years, including the creation of independent institutional boards at all seven of Oregon's public universities. Faculty, staff, and undergraduate students have a voice on these boards, however, one voice that is missing is that of graduate employees. Oregon's public university institutional boards would benefit greatly from the addition of a graduate student/employee position. Graduate employees' work is a key piece to undergraduate education in Oregon and graduate employees understand both sides of the university system as a worker and a student.

HB 3237 adds an important missing voice to Oregon's university institutional boards and improves them by adding graduate student's unique perspective to the vital work institutional boards have now been tasked with under Oregon's new system of governance. We urge you to support HB 3237 and add graduate employees' voices to Oregon's institutional boards.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Alan Bakalinsky
President – Association of Oregon Faculties