



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 20, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on General Government
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 5008 - Employment Relations Board budget - maintaining current staffing and service levels

Co-Chairs Smith and Manning, and Members of the committee,

The Oregon Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP-OR) represents, in legislative matters, the Portland State University Chapter of the AAUP (PSU-AAUP) and the faculty at Portland State University, United Academics at the University of Oregon (UAUO), and the faculty at University of Oregon. We write to strongly request and recommend that the Employment Relations Board (ERB) be granted funding in the 2017-19 biennium (HB 5008) to maintain current staffing and service levels.

The ERB has been pivotal to both faculties in resolving significant disputes between the faculty unions and the administrations of both institutions. Their ability to provide timely mediation; interest based bargaining facilitation on a schedule that enables understanding and resolution of complex problems on our negotiations schedule; and timely adjudication of Unfair Practice Charges has enabled both institutions to enjoy the benefits of labor peace.

We live in uncertain times, and we are witnessing regular attacks on employee organizations that threaten their very existence. Now, more than ever, the State of Oregon needs stability in the level of support it provides its public institutions in labor relations.

On behalf of faculties at Portland State University and University of Oregon, we encourage you to maintain staffing and service levels at the Employment Relations Board for the next biennium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José Padín".

José Padín
President

OREGON CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (AAUP-OR)