



MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: Oregon State Senate
Date: October 27, 2021
By: Leslie Porter, LPRO Analyst
Re: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments

LPRO: LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND RESEARCH OFFICE

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

The Governor has appointed the following individual to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission subject to Senate confirmation.¹

Appointee

Rukaiyah Adams of Portland; New Appointment

Term

November 19, 2021 – June 30, 2025

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 350.050 \(2019\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Required.

Statutory Requirements³

The commission consists of nine voting members who are subject to confirmation by the Senate and five nonvoting members.⁴ Voting members must include:

- one member from each of the five congressional districts in this state (CROSS (CD3), EDWARDS (CD2), HAMANN (CD5), FAJARDO (CD1), ROPER (CD4)); and
- four members of the general public (**ADAMS**, BECKER, LUJAN-VALERIO, ROWE).

Nonvoting members must include:

- one student at a public university in this state (PICK);
- one faculty member at a public university in this state (AYERS-PREBOSKI);
- one student at a community college in this state (VALDOVINOS TORRES);
- one faculty member at a community college in this state (GOULARD); and
- one nonfaculty member of the staff from either a public university or a community college in this state (FARRERA).

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2019\)](#) and [171.565 \(2019\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2019\)](#).

³ [ORS 182.100 \(2019\)](#) for affirmative action policy and [ORS 236.115 \(2019\)](#) for diversity criteria.

⁴ [ORS 350.050 \(2019\)](#).

Voting members serve four-year terms and nonvoting members serve two-year terms, and all members are eligible for reappointment. The Governor may at any time, for cause, remove any member of the board after notice and public hearing, but not more than three members shall be removed within a period of four years unless it is for corrupt conduct in office.

All members of the commission must be residents of this state who are well informed on the principles of higher education.⁵ The commission must select one of its members as chairperson and another as vice chairperson, for such terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of such offices as the commission determines.⁶ A majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and official action by the commission requires the approval of a majority of the members. The commission must meet at least once every three months and may also meet at other times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the commission.

Duties and Authority

The commission is the primary state entity responsible for ensuring pathways to post-secondary education success for Oregonians statewide and serves as a convener of the groups and institutions working across the public and private higher education arena.⁷ The commission must:⁸

- in coordination with the State Workforce and Talent Development Board, establish by rule educational attainment goals for adult Oregonians who are not currently enrolled in a kindergarten through grade 12 school, an institution of higher education, or another post-secondary training program;
- appoint an executive director to serve at the pleasure of the commission;
- develop state goals for the state post-secondary education system, including community colleges and public universities, and for student access programs;
- determine strategic investments in the state's community colleges, public universities, and student access programs necessary to achieve state post-secondary education goals;
- coordinate the post-secondary elements of data collection and structure with the advice and recommendation of the state's independent institutions, community colleges, and public universities, as appropriate, in order to construct a state longitudinal data system;
- adopt a strategic plan for achieving state post-secondary education goals, taking into consideration the contributions of this state's independent institutions, philanthropic organizations, and other organizations dedicated to helping Oregonians reach state goals;
- each biennium, after receiving funding requests from the state's community colleges and public universities as authorized by law, recommend to the Governor a consolidated higher education agency request budget aligned with the strategic plan;

⁵ [ORS 350.055 \(2019\)](#).

⁶ [ORS 350.060 \(2019\)](#).

⁷ Higher Education Coordinating Commission, *Commission*, <https://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/commission.aspx> (last visited September 14, 2020).

⁸ [ORS 350.018 to 350.610 \(2019\)](#).

- adopt rules governing the distribution of appropriations from the Legislative Assembly to community colleges, public universities, and student access programs;
- approve or disapprove any significant change to the academic program of a community college or public university;
- for public universities: approve the mission statement adopted by a governing board of a public university; review and determine whether a proposed annual increase of resident undergraduate enrollment fees of greater than five percent is appropriate; advise the Governor and the Legislative Assembly on issues of university governance; approve and authorize degrees; and perform evaluation and certification;
- authorize degrees to be offered by independent post-secondary institutions in this state;
- oversee the licensing of career schools;
- administer a statewide longitudinal data system;
- in coordination with the Department of Education, the Employment Department, and other state agencies, conduct statewide longitudinal studies and reporting of early learning, kindergarten through grade 12 education, higher education, and workforce programs;
- implement a process to review and appropriately act on student complaints regarding any school operating in this state;
- advise the Legislative Assembly, the Governor, community colleges, public universities and other state boards and commissions on specified policies;
- ensure the implementation of diverse educator recruitment plans;
- make specified reports to the Legislative Assembly;
- work with public universities, community college districts, and independent for-profit and not-for-profit institutions of higher education to carry out specified goals and appoint an advisory committee to coordinate implementation;
- administer specified funds and grant programs and adopt rules for the administration of those programs;
- monitor and report on participation of specified groups in higher education, including veterans and current and former foster children;
- conduct an annual review of each public institution of higher education with respect to the employment of all employee groups at the institution; and
- in consultation with community colleges and public universities, develop standards related to the transfer and award of education credits.

The commission may:⁹

- establish such advisory and technical committees as it considers necessary to aid and advise the commission in the performance of its functions;
- enter into and administer interstate agreements regarding the provision of post-secondary distance education;
- refer the investigation and resolution of a student complaint to: an appropriate state agency if the complaint alleges that a school has violated a state law concerning consumer protection, civil rights, employment rights, or environmental quality; a school's

⁹ [ORS 350.070 to 350.640 \(2019\)](#).

accrediting association if the complaint relates to the school's authorization to offer or the quality of academic degree programs; or the school at which the student is enrolled if the commission determines that the complaint should be resolved through the school's internal review process;

- adopt administrative rules;
- with the exception of its rulemaking authority, delegate any of its powers, duties, or functions to a committee of the commission or to the executive director of the commission;
- enter into contracts and agreements, including grant agreements, with public and private entities;
- consistent with the laws of this state, accept money or property that is donated for the use or benefit of community colleges and use such money or property for the purpose for which it was donated;
- apply for federal funds or funds from any other source and accept and enter into any contracts or agreements on behalf of this state for the receipt of such funds from the federal government, federal agencies, or any other entity which provides funding for specified purposes;
- prescribe tests and other appropriate evaluation procedures for the purposes of evaluating high school equivalency tests; and
- enter into contracts with private and independent institutions of higher education for the performance of nonsectarian educational services to assist the state in providing educational opportunities for Oregon students and accept grants, gifts, bequests, and devises of real property to that end.

Executive Appointments Board Roster

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Agency: Oregon Department of Education

Authorization: ORS 351.715

Members: Min: 14 Max: 14

Term Length: 4 years Limit: 2

Senate confirmation required? Yes

Policy Area: Education

Board Contact:

Ben Cannon

Higher Education Coordinating
Commission

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Current Appointments:

Member Name and Address (Alphabetical)

Rukaiyah N Adams

At-Large (votive)

Term(s): 11-19-2025 - 06-30-2025

Position Number: 4

Lee E Ayers-Preboski, PhD

University Faculty (non-voting) Not Senate Confirmed

Term(s): 07-01-2019 - 06-30-2021

07-01-2017 - 06-30-2019

07-01-2015 - 06-30-2017

09-18-2013 - 06-30-2015

Position Number: 10

Vanessa A Becker

At Large (Voting)

Term(s): 07-01-2019 - 06-30-2023

01-01-2018 - 06-30-2019

Position Number: 5

Terry L Cross, Chair

CD3 (voting)

Term(s): 07-01-2019 - 06-30-2023

11-20-2015 - 06-30-2019

Position Number: 1

Helen L Edwards

CD2 (Voting)

Term(s): 10-02-2020 - 06-30-2023

Position Number: 7

Arnel M Fajardo, PhD

CD 1 (Voting)

Term(s): 07-01-2021 - 06-30-2025

Position Number: 3

Enrique Farrera

Staff (non-voting) Not Senate Confirmed

Term(s): 07-01-2019 - 06-30-2021

07-01-2017 - 06-30-2019

05-13-2016 - 06-30-2017

Position Number: 14

Executive Appointments Board Roster

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Member Name and Address (Alphabetical)

Policy Area: Education

Frank Goulard Community College Faculty (non-voting) Not Senate Confirmed	Position Number: 11
Term(s): 07-01-2019 - 06-30-2021	
07-01-2017 - 06-30-2019	
07-01-2015 - 06-30-2017	
09-18-2013 - 06-30-2015	

Gregory J Hamann CD 5; (voting)	Position Number: 8
Term(s): 07-01-2021 - 06-30-2025	

Rico Lujan-Valerio At Large (Voting)	Position Number: 2
Term(s): 07-01-2021 - 06-30-2025	
12-01-2020 - 06-30-2021	

Shelby T Pick University Student (non-voting) Not Senate Confirmed	Position Number: 12
Term(s): 11-05-2018 - 06-30-2020	

Larry D Roper, PhD CD 4 (voting)	Position Number: 6
Term(s): 07-01-2017 - 06-30-2021	
09-18-2013 - 06-30-2017	

Sandy Rowe, Vice-Chair At Large (voting)	Position Number: 9
Term(s): 07-01-2021 - 06-30-2025	
09-25-2017 - 06-30-2021	

Rossy Valdovinos Torres Community College Student (non-voting), not Senate Confirmed	Position Number: 13
Term(s): 10-18-2019 - 06-30-2021	