

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules and
Executive Appointments

DATE: May 20, 2024

BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative 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

New Appointee

Jennifer Smith of Eugene

Term

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 350.050 \(2023\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Required.

Composition³

The commission consists of 15 Oregon residents serving as voting members who are well informed concerning the principles of higher education. Membership includes:

- one public university undergraduate student (ARNOT);
- one public university graduate student (SIPELII);
- one public university faculty member (SIMNITT);
- one community college student (BISCOE);
- one community college faculty member (ROJAS-GALVÁN);
- one public university or community college nonfaculty staff member (**SMITH**);
- one member from each of the six congressional districts (FAJARDO (CD1), YAMASAKI (CD2), KOCHER (CD3), HAMANN (CD4), PROCTER ANDREWS (CD5), DEVLIN (CD6)); and
- three members of the general public (ADAMS, MARTINEZ, ROWE).

The Governor shall elicit recommendations for student, faculty, and staff appointees. Appointees from the congressional districts and from the general public serve four-year

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4, ORS 171.562 and 171.565 \(2023\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

³ [ORS 350.050 \(2023\)](#); [ORS 182.100 \(2023\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2023\)](#) for diversity criteria.

terms and the remainder serve two-year terms. All members are eligible for reappointment. The Governor may, for cause, remove any member after notice and a 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.⁴

The commission selects its chair and vice chair. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum. The commission must meet at least once every three months.⁵

Duties⁶

The commission works to ensure access to post-secondary education and academic success. The commission must:

- establish educational attainment goals for adults not currently enrolled in a post-secondary training program, in coordination with the State Workforce and Talent Development Board;
- appoint an executive director;
- develop goals for post-secondary education, including community colleges and public universities, and for student access programs;
- determine strategic investments, and adopt a strategic plan, to achieve goals;
- coordinate post-secondary data collection and structure;
- recommend a consolidated higher education agency request;
- adopt rules governing the distribution of appropriations;
- approve or deny any significant change to the academic program of a community college or public university;
- approve mission statements adopted by public universities; review specified fee increases; advise the Governor and the Legislative Assembly about university governance issues; and authorize degrees offered by independent post-secondary institutions;
- oversee the licensing of career schools;
- administer a statewide longitudinal data system; conduct longitudinal studies; and report on early learning, kindergarten through Grade 12 education, higher education, and workforce programs, in coordination with the Department of Education, the Employment Department, and other state agencies;
- implement a review process for, and appropriately act on, student complaints;
- advise the Governor and the Legislative Assembly, community colleges, public universities, and other state boards and commissions on specified policies;

⁴ [ORS 350.050 \(2023\)](#).

⁵ [ORS 350.060 \(2023\)](#).

⁶ [ORS 350.018 to 350.640 \(2023\)](#).



- ensure the implementation of diverse educator recruitment plans;
- make specified reports to the Legislative Assembly;
- work with institutions of higher education to achieve specified goals and appoint an advisory committee to coordinate implementation;
- administer specified funds and grant programs and adopt administrative rules;
- monitor and report on participation of specified groups in higher education;
- conduct annual reviews of each public institution of higher education with respect to the employment of all employee groups at the institution; and
- develop standards for transferring and awarding education credits, in consultation with community colleges and public universities.

The commission may:

- establish advisory and technical committees and delegate powers, duties, or functions to a committee or the executive director;
- enter into contracts and agreements and adopt administrative rules;
- refer to a designee the investigation and resolution of a student complaint, as appropriate, due to the nature and content of any allegations made;
- accept donated money or property, apply for funding from any source, and accept and arrange for the receipt of donations as appropriate; and
- prescribe tests and other measures to evaluate high school equivalency tests.



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Agency: **Higher Education Coordinating Commission**

Authorization: **ORS 350.050**

Min Members: **14** Max Members: **15**

Term Length: **4** Term Limit: **2**

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

Policy Area: **Education**

Board Admin: **Ben Cannon**

Address:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

255 Capitol Street NE

Salem, OR 97310

503-947-2379

Ben.CANNON@hecc.oregon.gov

Current Appointments

Arnot, Natalie

Undergraduate - Public University

Position Number: **1**

Term(s): **7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024**

Sipelii, Motutama

Graduate Student - Public University

Position Number: **2**

Term(s): **3/1/2022 - 2/29/2024**

Simnitt, Emily

Faculty - Public University

Position Number: **3**

Term(s): **7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024**

Biscoe, Rachel

Student - Community College

Position Number: **4**

Term(s): **10/5/2023 - 6/30/2025**

Rojas-Galván, Fernando

Faculty - Community College

Position Number: **5**

Term(s): **7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024**

Smith, Jennifer

Nonfaculty Staff (Public University or Community College)

Position Number: **6**

Term(s): **7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026**

Mr Fajardo, Arnel M PhD

CD 1

Position Number: **7**

Term(s): **7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025**

Ms Yamasaki, Gayle S

CD 2

Position Number: **8**

Term(s): **10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027**

Ms Rowe, Sandra "Sandy" M	Term(s):	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025
Public Member		9/25/2017 - 6/30/2021
Position Number: 15		

Kocher, Evelyn	Term(s):	10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027
CD 3		
Position Number: 9		

Dr Hamann, Gregory J	Term(s):	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025
CD 4		
Position Number: 10		

Procter Andrews, Jennifer	Term(s):	2/16/2024 - 6/30/2027
CD 5		
Position Number: 11		

Devlin, Richard	Term(s):	3/1/2022 - 2/28/2026
CD 6		
Position Number: 12		

Martinez, Theresa	Term(s):	2/16/2024 - 6/30/2027
Public Member		
Position Number: 13		

Ms Adams, Rukaiyah N	Term(s):	11/19/2021 - 6/30/2025
Public Member		
Position Number: 14		

Vacant Positions
