

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules and
Executive Appointments

DATE: September 19, 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 individuals to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission subject to Senate confirmation.¹

New Appointee

Mary Middleton of Grants Pass

Reappointees

Natalie Arnot of Klamath Falls

Emily Simnitt of Eugene

Terms

Arnot: July 1, 20-24 – June 30, 2026

Middleton: October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026

Simnitt: 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 (**MIDDLETON**);
- one public university or community college nonfaculty staff member (SMITH);

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.

- 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 (MARTINEZ, ROWE, VACANT).

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

⁴ [ORS 350.050 \(2023\)](#).

⁵ [ORS 350.060 \(2023\)](#).

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



- 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;
- 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.



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Agency: **Higher Education Coordinating Commission**

Policy Area: **Education**

Authorization: **ORS 350.050**

Board Admin: **Ben Cannon**

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

Address:

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

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

255 Capitol Street NE

Salem, OR 97310

503-947-2379

Ben.CANNON@hecc.oregon.gov

Current Appointments

Arnot, Natalie Public University Undergraduate Student Position Number: 1	Term(s): 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026 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 Public University Faculty Member Position Number: 3	Term(s): 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026 7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024
Biscoe, Rachel Student - Community College Position Number: 4	Term(s): 10/5/2023 - 6/30/2025
Middleton, Mary Faculty - Community College Position Number: 5	Term(s): 10/1/2024 - 6/30/2026
Smith, Jennifer Nonfaculty Staff (Public University or Community College) Position Number: 6	Term(s): 7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026
Mrs Edwards, Helen L Public Member Position Number: 14	Term(s): 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2029 10/1/2024 - 6/30/2025 10/2/2020 - 6/30/2023
Mr Fajardo, Arnel M PhD CD 1 Position Number: 7	Term(s): 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025

Ms Yamasaki, Gayle S	Term(s):	10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027
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CD 2

Position Number: **8**

Ms Rowe, Sandra "Sandy" M	Term(s):	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025
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Public Member

9/25/2017 - 6/30/2021

Position Number: **15**

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

Position Number: **9**

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

Position Number: **10**

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

Position Number: **11**

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

Position Number: **12**

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

Position Number: **13**

Vacant Positions
