

Good afternoon Chair Dembrow and senate education committee members. My name is Rob Fullmer and I am a member of the Service Employees International Union - Local 503. Mark just talked about SEIU 503 so I won't duplicate that. Professionally, I work as one of two IT staff in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences serving the support and planning needs of over six hundred faculty and staff in the College, a capacity in which I've worked for the past 18 years.

I am here today to testify in favor of SB 273. I'm grateful for the open and collaborative process of the task force chaired by Senator Dembrow and am hopeful for the passage of this legislation to strengthen public university governance through their boards of trustees.

The language adding a voting graduate student member and second, non-voting undergraduate student who can be mentored their first year and serve as an experienced voting board member in their second year are both key improvements that will lift student voices in governance and both real and perceived student participation.

I also am a big fan of the language regarding a mandated, substantive response to public comment - hopefully those will be responsive and campus communities will feel heard. The board testimony format doesn't lend itself to dialog, but if people feel assured they'll get a substantive response in writing it may go a long way to helping alleviate the lack of immediate feedback. I would suggest that since both the public comment and responses are a matter of public record, all such correspondence be copied to a specific email address individualized for each university hosted by the HECC for archival and reference purposes.

Finally, I welcome the training this bill would ask the HECC to undertake for new governing board members regarding the duties those board members have to Oregon, augmenting the existing training offered by the universities themselves. While I'd like to see such training be required, it is my hope it will be widely attended by new board members and that utilization will be tracked and the training refined in response to attendee input.

Thank you for your work on this important topic and the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today.