

Date: April 24, 2023

To: House Committee on Higher Education

From: Executive Council, United Academics, University of Oregon (UAUO)

Re: Support for SB 273A and Positive Public University Governance Changes

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Ruiz, and Members of the Committee:

We are writing on behalf of UAUO and our 1790 bargaining unit members to express support for **Senate Bill 273A**. This bill is an important step forward in fostering greater transparency, accountability, and access to Public University Governing Boards for students, faculty, and staff. There are three core reasons why we support this bill:

- Decisions that are made with the involvement of all stakeholders are stronger and less divisive.
- This bill will ensure that university faculty have a voice to speak to the board and get responses from the board; simple common sense changes like providing email addresses and requiring responses to our questions.
- Requires faculty input to determine who will serve as the liaison representing faculty on the Board of Trustees.

As the leadership team for United Academics, we work on behalf of faculty to foster open communication and transparent decision-making with all leadership whose work will unquestionably impact the lives and careers of campus community members. Without an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Board of Trustees, decisions have been made that undermine the work that faculty undertake on behalf of the students and one another. Without such requirements to meaningfully engage with those who do the work, a continuing climate of hostility toward campus unions and their missions is sustained.

This is why we urge your yes vote on SB 273A. We thank both the House Committee on Higher Education and the Senate Education Committee for their collaborative work on this bill and the countless hours spent making a strong bill that meets the needs of many stakeholders. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mike Urbancic  
Senior Instructor of Economics, and President of UAUO

Debbie Green  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies, and Executive Vice President of UAUO

Pat Curtin  
Professor of Journalism and Communication, and Secretary of UAUO

Bill Harbaugh  
Professor of Economics, and Treasurer of UAUO

David Luebke  
Professor of History, and Vice President for Tenure Track Faculty Affairs of UAUO

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Professor of Education Studies, and Chair of the Politics Committee of UAUO