



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

February 6, 2024

To: House Committee on Higher Education

Re: HB 4125 – Support

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

My name is Greg Monahan, and I am the Vice-President of the Association of Oregon Faculties. Last year, I appeared before you to support passage of Senate Bill 273, which attempted to govern some of the behavior of the various institutional boards set up in 2011 to replace the single board of the Oregon University System. You passed that bill, and I thank you. I think—hope!—it helped. The larger question, however, remains. How has that fairly large governance reform actually worked? Has it been good for Oregon’s students and those who work at the state’s institutions of higher education? If so, how can it be further improved? And if it hasn’t been such a good idea—and let’s face it, not every reform works like we want it to—should we think about reversing course and returning to a unified system or other changes? House Bill 4125 proposes to try and answer those questions. Now, I know that these “study” bills as we sometimes call them can seem like a waste of time, a way of just rolling something we need to do but aren’t real sure we want to do, down the road a piece. But this one is different, because it helps to answer the question of what, in fact, we need to do. It actually promises to give us some practical and important information. And after twelve years, I think it is a good idea to look back at something we did and ask the serious question. Did it work? Did it do what we wanted it to do? So, I urge that you pass HB 4125 so that, simply put, we can answer those questions.

Thank you,

Greg Monahan, Vice-President
On behalf of the Board
Association of Oregon Faculties