

House Interim Committee on Education
November 17th, 2025

Legislative Concept: Clarifying Student Government Autonomy

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Oregon (ASUO)

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Oregon Student Government

Public bodies within public bodies

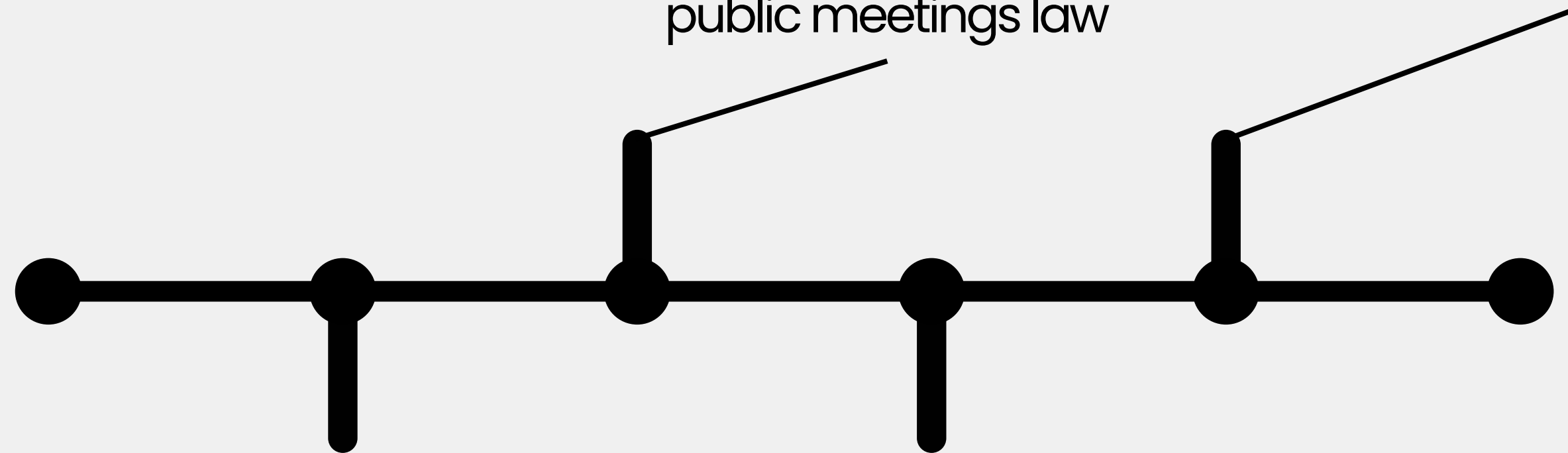
2013: HB 3020 gives students governments allocation power over mandatory incidental fees, sets specific cases when university Board may refuse allocation

1984: Attorney General finds student governments are public bodies subject to public meetings law

1991: Attorney General finds student governments are public bodies subject to public records law

1971: "recognized student government" first mentioned in statute, given advisory role

Present day



1920s: Optional student fees fund MacArthur Court at UO and Memorial Union at OSU

Part of, and yet, distinct: Student government in PECBA

ORS 243.778 allows “the duly organized and recognized entity of student government...to designate three representatives” that during the course of collective bargaining between the university and its faculty union, shall:

- (a) “Be allowed to attend and observe all meetings between the public employer and the exclusive representative at which collective bargaining occurs”
- (b) “Have access to all written documents pertaining to the collective bargaining negotiations exchanged by the public employer and the exclusive representative”
- (c) “Be allowed to comment in good faith during the bargaining sessions upon matters under consideration”

Collective bargaining with faculty at a public university can include three parties: the faculty union, the university as employer, and, separately, the student government

Part of, and yet, distinct: SB 273 (2023)

Higher education governance reform. Main impact: expanded governing boards to include more student representation

New language added to ORS 352.076:

“undergraduate [and graduate] student members of the governing board shall be nominated through an internal governance process held by the official student government.”

**Students are elevating their own representatives for the governing board.
An “internal governance process” is incompatible with ultimate governing board control of the student government.**

Consequences of lacking boundaries

Attempted Seizure of Incidental Fee Funds

This spring and summer, Oregon State University administration creates a Task Force to consider removing over half of ASOSU's incidental fee funds from student control, despite state statute requiring any changes to the incidental fee originating from the student government.

Incidental Fee Task Force

Updated: Aug. 28, 2025

Reason for the Task Force/Charge

The Incidental Fee Taskforce was charged by the Vice President for Student Affairs in spring 2025 to review and clarify the role of incidental fees at Oregon State University. The task force was asked to define what constitutes an incidental fee, distinguish incidental programs and services from those that should be considered baseline university responsibilities, and recommend a process for transitioning non-incidental units to the mandatory fee-setting process. The intent was to

Consequences of lacking boundaries



University Policy 02-300

OSU and Recognized Student Government Commitment on Student Engagement in Shared Governance

Last Revised
September 15, 2025

Responsible Executive
President

Responsible Office
President's Office;
ASOSU; ASCC

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Threat of De-Recognition

Starting in 2023, Oregon State University instituted a new university policy defining the "Recognized Student Government," as one which spends incidental fee dollars on particular allocations. This also allows the university to use de-recognition as leverage if the student government wants to fund something university administration doesn't

Consequences of lacking boundaries

ASOSU goes into partial shutdown, suggested reform

Audrey Saiz and Kera Nelson

February 28, 2025

Ramirez terminated as ASOSU President, Mogylevsky responds

Kip Franich, Reporter

September 25, 2025

ASOSU shutdown comes to an end, Constitution yet to pass

Kip Franich and Fox Perez

October 3, 2025

Daily Barometer

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Shutdown and Student Leader Removals

OSU admin institutes a "shutdown" of their student government. Four senators are removed from office by administration for attempting to hold meetings during shutdown.

After pushing back on the seizure of Incidental Fee funds, ASOSU President Kayla Ramirez is also removed.

Define the relationship

1. Identify student governments

List the eight student governments of public universities like the Boards are.

Model language: ORS 352.004(2)(b) “The Portland State University governing board shall be known as the Board of Trustees of Portland State University.”

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Include specific protections for the internal governance processes of the student governments, meaning constitutions, bylaws, and charters. If student governments have to follow a rule to allocate student funds, university administrations should too.

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2b. Student body determines participation requirements

Require conditions for holding student government office to be established by student body via student governance documents (e.g. constitutional amendment). Officials can still be removed for misconduct via existing recall and/or impeachment procedures.

Student Government Autonomy

Endorsing Student Governments:



1. Identify governments in statute

2. Forbid infringement of internal governance processes

2b. Student body determines participation requirements



**Associated Students
of Oregon Institute of Technology**

Klamath Falls and Portland-Metro