

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Interim Committee on Rules
and Executive Appointments

DATE: October 31, 2025

BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative Analyst

RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



LPRO
LEGISLATIVE POLICY
AND RESEARCH OFFICE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

The Governor has appointed the following individuals to the Board of Trustees of Western Oregon University subject to Senate confirmation..¹

Reappointments

Paige Jackson of Monmouth

Kate Schwarzler of Independence

Jim Vu of Salem

Mark Zook of Salem

Terms

Jackson: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028

All others: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2030

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 352.054 and 352.076 \(2023\)](#).

Statement of Economic Interest²

Not required.

Composition³

The board consists of 14 to 18 members, including:

- one enrolled undergraduate student (WINKLER);
- one enrolled undergraduate student, *nonvoting* (ESPAIN ACEVES);
- one graduate student (HALL);
- one faculty member (SCHOWALTER);
- one nonfaculty staff member (**JACKSON**);
- eight to 12 at-large members: (AMBRIS, DALTON, EVANS, FASANA, LARIOS, MITCHELL, NELSESTUEN, PEREZ, **SCHWARZLER, VU, ZOOK**); and
- the university president, *ex officio, nonvoting* (PETERS).

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2023\)](#), [ORS 171.565 \(2023\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

³ [ORS 352.076 \(2023\)](#); [ORS 182.100 \(2023\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2023\)](#) for diversity criteria.

Student, faculty, and nonfaculty staff serve two-year terms; other members serve four-year terms. The Governor may remove appointed members but not more than three within four years, unless for corrupt conduct. Faculty and nonfaculty staff members may not participate in collective bargaining discussions, action, or sessions. The board selects its chair and vice chair and must meet at least four times per year.

Duties⁴

Oregon's seven public universities have governing boards that:

- provide transparency, public accountability, and support for the university;
- are close to and closely focused on the individual university;
- lead to greater access and affordability for Oregon residents and do not disadvantage Oregon students relative to out-of-state students;
- act in the best interests of the university and the State of Oregon; and
- promote academic success in support of all education beyond high school.

The governing board of each university must:

- adopt the university budget;
- in consultation with the Governor, appoint and supervise a university president;
- establish a process for determining tuition and mandatory enrollment fees;
- have custody and control of all real and personal property used;
- ensure collateral to secures funds on deposit;
- adopt standards governing employee outside employment and activities;
- provide group insurance and deferred compensation plans to employees;
- adopt standards for the alcohol and drug abuse policy and implementation plan;
- exempt a student who is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident, or financially dependent on such a person, from paying nonresident tuition and fees; and
- adopt standards for the administration of statutes.

⁴ [ORS 352.025 and 352.313 \(2023\)](#).



Western Oregon University, Board of Trustees of

Agency: **Education, Oregon Department of**

Authorization: **ORS 352.076**

Min Members: **15** Max Members: **17**

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

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

Policy Area: **Regional Solutions**

Board Admin: **Evan Sorce**

Address:

Western Oregon University

345 N Monmouth Ave

Monmouth, OR 97361

503-838-8888

sorcee@wou.edu

Current Appointments

Nelsestuen, Kari

At-Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **1**

Term(s):

7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026

6/10/2022 - 6/30/2022

Dalton, Robert "Bob"

At-Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **2**

Term(s):

10/1/2025 - 6/30/2029

Mr Ambris, Jerardo "Jerry"

At-Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **3**

Term(s):

7/1/2023 - 6/30/2027

11/25/2019 - 6/30/2023

Vu, Jim

At-Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **4**

Term(s):

7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030

10/1/2024 - 6/30/2026

Larios, Juan

At-Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **5**

Term(s):

10/1/2024 - 6/30/2028

Schwarzler, Kate

At-Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **6**

Term(s):

7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030

10/1/2024 - 6/30/2026

Zook, Mark	Term(s):	7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030
At-Large		10/1/2024 - 6/30/2026
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 7		
Ms Evans, Gayle M SPHR	Term(s):	7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026
At-Large		7/1/2018 - 6/30/2022
Appointed By: Governor		11/17/2017 - 6/30/2018
Position Number: 8		
Ms Mitchell, Leah M	Term(s):	7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026
At-Large		10/1/2019 - 6/30/2022
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 9		
Perez, Rey	Term(s):	10/1/2024 - 6/30/2028
At-Large		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 10		
Fasana, Angela	Term(s):	7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026
At-Large		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 11		
Schowalter, Dana	Term(s):	7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026
Faculty		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 12		
Jackson, Paige	Term(s):	7/1/2026 - 6/30/2028
Nonfaculty Staff		7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026
Appointed By: Governor		2/16/2024 - 6/30/2024
Position Number: 13		
Winkler, Toby	Term(s):	7/1/2026 - 6/30/2028
Undergraduate Student (voting)		10/1/2025 - 6/30/2026
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 14		
Espain Aceves, Bianca	Term(s):	10/1/2025 - 6/30/2027
Undergraduate Student (non-voting)		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 15		

Hall, Hunter	Term(s):	10/1/2024 - 6/30/2026
Graduate Student		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 16		

Dr. Peters, Darrell "Jesse"	Term(s):	8/1/2022 -
WOU President (Ex Officio)		
Appointed By: Statute/Bill		
Position Number: 17		

Vacant Positions