

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules
DATE: February 2, 2026
BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative Analyst
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



LPRO
LEGISLATIVE POLICY
AND RESEARCH OFFICE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

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

New Appointments

Daniel Costie of La Grande
Emily Folkestad of La Grande
Mark Pearson of Boise, ID

Reappointments

Chris Cronin of John Day
Charles Hofmann of Meridian, ID
Erin Lair of Cove
Cedric Riel of Kennewick, WA
Kerry Thompson of Boardman
Maurizio Valerio of Union

Terms

Costie, Thompson: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028
Cronin, Folkestad, Hofmann, Lair, Pearson, Riel, Valerio: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2030

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 352.054 and 352.076 \(2025\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Not required.

Composition³

The board consists of 14 to 18 members:

- one enrolled undergraduate student (FECHT);
- one enrolled undergraduate student, nonvoting (STANDLEY);
- one graduate student (VACANT);
- one faculty member (**COSTIE**);

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 and ORS 171.565 \(2025\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2025\)](#).

³ [ORS 352.076 \(2025\)](#); [ORS 182.100 \(2025\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2025\)](#) for diversity criteria.

- one nonfaculty staff member (**THOMPSON**);
- eight to 12 at-large members: (**CRONIN**, DAVIDSON, **FOLKESTAD**, GEORGE, **HOFMANN**, LAIR, MABBOTT, **PEARSON**, RIEL, SMITH, **VALERIO**); and
- the university president, *ex officio*, nonvoting (RYAN).

Student, faculty, and nonfaculty staff serve two-year terms; other members serve four-year terms. Both may serve up to two consecutive terms. The Governor may remove appointed members but may not remove more than three within four years, unless for corrupt conduct. Faculty and nonfaculty staff members may not participate in any discussions, action, or sessions concerning collective bargaining issues.

The board selects its chair and vice chair, shall adopt bylaws concerning how a quorum is constituted and when it is necessary, 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 secure 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 a person who is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident, from paying nonresident tuition and fees under specified conditions; and
- adopt standards for the administration of statutes.

⁴ [ORS 352.025 and 352.313 \(2025\)](#).



Eastern Oregon University, Board of Trustees of

Agency: **Semi-Independent**

Authorization: **ORS 352.076**

Min Members: **11** Max Members: **16**

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

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

Policy Area: **Regional Solutions**

Board Admin: **Chris Burford**

Address:

Office of the President | Inlow Hall 216

1 University Boulevard

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 962-4101

cburford@eou.edu

Current Appointments

Dr Hofmann, Charles E MD, FACP

At Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **1**

Term(s): **7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030**

7/1/2023 - 6/30/2026

Mr Mendoza, George J

At-Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **2**

Term(s): **7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026**

7/1/2018 - 6/30/2022

9/19/2014 - 6/30/2018

Pearson, Mark

At Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **2**

Term(s): **7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030**

George, Gary

At-Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **3**

Term(s): **7/1/2023 - 6/30/2027**

Cronin, Christine

At Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **4**

Term(s): **7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030**

7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026

Lair, Erin

At Large

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **5**

Term(s): **7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030**

7/1/2023 - 6/30/2026

Ms Mabbott, Tamra J	Term(s):	7/1/2024 - 6/30/2028
At-Large		10/1/2020 - 6/30/2024
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 6		
Smith, Brenda	Term(s):	10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027
At-Large		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 7		
Mr Riel, Cedric A	Term(s):	7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030
At Large		7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026
Appointed By: Governor		5/14/2021 - 6/30/2022
Position Number: 8		
Davidson, Scott	Term(s):	7/1/2025 - 6/30/2029
At-Large		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 9		
Dr Valerio, Maurizio	Term(s):	7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030
At Large		7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026
Appointed By: Governor		10/1/2020 - 6/30/2022
Position Number: 10		
Folkestad, Emily	Term(s):	7/1/2026 - 6/30/2030
At Large		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 11		
Geagon, Margot	Term(s):	7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026
Faculty		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 12		
Costie, Daniel	Term(s):	7/1/2026 - 6/30/2028
Faculty		
Appointed By: Governor		
Position Number: 12		
Thompson, Kerry	Term(s):	7/1/2026 - 6/30/2028
Non-Faculty Staff		7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026
Appointed By: Governor		4/26/2023 - 6/30/2024
Position Number: 13		

Fecht, Connor

Term(s):

10/1/2025 - 6/30/2027

Student (voting)

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **14**

Standley, Ana

Term(s):

7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026

Student (non-voting)

Appointed By: Governor

Position Number: **15**

Ryan, Kelly

Term(s):

11/1/2022 -

EOU President (ex-officio)

Appointed By: Statute/Bill

Position Number: **16**

Vacant Positions
