SENATE DRAFT 28 Apr 2011
BYLAWS of the University of Oregon Senate

ARTICLE 1: AUTHORITY and SCOPE

1.1 The University Senate is the primary legislative body at the University of Oregon. Its authority comes from the 1876 University of Oregon Charter, Oregon Revised Statutes 352.010 and 352.004, and most recently from the University of Oregon Constitution adopted 19 May 2010 by the Faculty Assembly and approved by University President Richard Lariviere on 13 Aug 2010.

1.2 The responsibilities and limitations of the authority bestowed on the Senate by the Faculty Assembly are described in Sections 1.1 – 1.4 of the University of Oregon Constitution, including the statement that the Faculty Assembly delegates its daily governance authority to the University Senate.

1.3 Effective execution of the University Senate’s authority requires that the Senate expresses its views on University policies and priorities through appropriate legislation and resolutions. Legislation shall be limited to issues that relate to the academic mission of the University or student conduct. Resolutions shall be unrestricted in scope.

1.4 These by-laws go into effect immediately upon their approval by the Senate, and replace all previous University Senate by-laws.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP, ELECTION PROCESS and VOTING PROCEDURES

2.1 Distribution of Senate seats. Apportionment and reapportionment of Senate seats is as stated in the University of Oregon Constitution Section 4.

2.2 Terms of Office and Re-election. The term of office for each elected Senator shall be two (2) years as stated in the University of Oregon Constitution. The only exceptions to this rule is the one year term of office for the Senate President, Vice President and Academic Council Chair, the latter of whom can be reappointed if so desired by the Academic Council (see Article 6.4). Senators may be re-elected without term limits.

2.3 Election Process. Election procedures for non-student University Senators and for student Senators are described in the University of Oregon Constitution Sections 5 and 6, and 4.9, respectively.

2.4 Voting Rights and Procedures. Only Senators have the right to vote in the University Senate. Senators must be present to cast a vote and voting in the Senate must be conducted by a voice, hand or roll call vote. Voting by proxy, absentee, mail or secret ballot is prohibited.

ARTICLE 3: RULES AND PROCEDURES

3.1 The Senate shall adopt its own rules and procedures. The Senate is free to adopt its own internal rules and procedures (i.e., Senate by-laws) except as explicitly stipulated in the University
of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1. These exceptions are noted throughout this document.

3.2 The Senate shall follow Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the University Senate in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these bylaws, the University of Oregon Constitution, and any special rules of order the University Senate may adopt. Senate rules must also adhere to all local, state and national laws.

3.2.1 Deviations from Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised. The Senate may choose to adopt rules that do not conform to Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised. Any deviations from Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be presented to the Senate in the form of a motion and shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote to be adopted.

3.3 Senate Agenda. The Senate President shall set the agenda for each University Senate meeting in consultation with the Senate Executive Committee. The Senate agenda must be made public and available to the Senate at least 7 days prior to the Senate meeting. The Order of Business follows the sequence listed below. Section 3.3 shall be a Special Rule of Order as defined by Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.

3.3.1 Call to Order.

3.3.2 Approval of the Minutes. The minutes from the previous meeting shall be brought before the Senate for discussion, revision if necessary, and formal approval by vote.

3.3.3 State of the University. The President of the University or his/her designee shall be granted this period at each Senate meeting to make a presentation.

3.3.4 New Business. New Business is the section of the Senate meeting where motions shall be brought to the Senate floor for discussion, consideration and action. Other action items, such as formal acceptance of the Curriculum Report from the Committee on Courses and motions from prior meetings that were tabled or sent back for revision shall also be presented in this part of the meeting.

3.3.5 Open Discussion. The Senate shall have the opportunity to discuss a topical issue of campus-wide concern during this part of the meeting. No formal action shall occur during the Open Discussion period and motions shall not be brought to the floor for consideration.

3.3.6 Reports. This shall be the section of the meeting when reports from University Standing or ad hoc Committees, Administrative Advisory Groups, Externally- Mandated Boards and other campus constituencies are presented.

3.3.7 Notice(s) of Motion. Notice shall be given for all motions to be discussed and acted upon by the Senate at a future meeting (See Article 3.7 for more information concerning Legislation and Resolutions).

3.3.8 Other Business.

3.3.9 Adjournment.
3.4 Senate Meetings. The schedule, location and agenda of Senate meetings shall be posted on the Senate website. Senate meetings shall be open to the public. The only valid exceptions shall be those sections of Senate meetings dealing with Distinguished Service Awards and Honorary Doctorates (see Article 3.10) and those specified by the Oregon Public Meetings law (ORS 192.640, 650 and 660). Upon including in the public record one or more of the above-specified reason(s) for going into executive session, the Senate President shall close the meeting to all non-senators (University of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1.2).

3.4.1 Access to the Senate Floor. All Senators, Statutory Faculty as defined in the University of Oregon Constitution Section 2.2, and Emeriti Faculty shall have the right to the Senate floor to speak on any matter under discussion in the University Senate. The President of the Senate may confer priority to the floor to Senate members when necessary to facilitate the business of the Senate (University of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1.3).

3.4.1.1 Visitors. Visitors are always warmly welcome at meetings of the University Senate. Visitors shall have access to the Senate floor at the pleasure of the Senate, which must formally suspend the Senate rules to allow visitors to speak at Senate meetings. A two-thirds affirmative vote shall be required for suspension of the rules. The Senate President shall have the right, without requesting a suspension of the rules, to invite visitors to make reports to the Senate.

3.4.2 Minutes of Senate meetings. All Senate meetings shall have formal minutes prepared by the Senate Executive Coordinator who shall also post them on the Senate website in a timely manner. All meeting minutes shall be approved by the Senate.

3.5 Senate Attendance. The Senate Executive Coordinator shall keep an up-to-date list of all Senate members. Each Senator shall officially sign in at each meeting and Senate minutes shall record all present, excused, and absent members.

3.5.1 Senate Absences. The seat of any senator shall be considered vacant if the senator is absent two times in one academic term from regularly scheduled meetings of the Senate, unless the Senate Executive Coordinator or the Senate President has been notified in advance of the senator's illness or anticipated absence on university business (University of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1.1).

3.6 Quorum. No motions shall be debated or voted on in the absence of a majority of the Senate membership. The quorum requirement remains half plus one of the prescribed membership (51-54 Senators, see University of Oregon Constitution Section 4.1) even if some Senate positions are unfilled (University of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1.4).

3.7 Senate Motions

3.7.1 Introduction of Motions. All members of the University Senate, members of the Statutory Faculty as defined in the University of Oregon Constitution Section 2.2 and Emeriti Statutory Faculty shall have the right to introduce motions. Motions shall be legislation, policy adoptions, or resolutions as defined in the University of Oregon Constitution Section 7.2. Legislation shall be limited to issues that relate to the academic mission of the University or student conduct. Policy
adoptions shall be restricted to new or revised University policies that are or will be posted on the University of Oregon Policy Library website. Resolutions shall be unrestricted in their scope.

3.7.2 Format of Motions. Each motion must contain the following information prior to its consideration by the Senate. This information shall be approved by the Senate Rules Committee (See Article 5.2) and the Senate President before the motion shall come before the Senate.

3.7.2.1 Title of Motion. The title of the motion shall be brief and shall allow the reader to understand the gist of the motion.

3.7.2.2 Type of Motion. The type of motion, i.e., Legislation, Policy Adoption or Resolution, shall be specified in this section.

3.7.2.3 Number of Motion. Each motion shall have a unique identifying number using the format USXX/YY-ZZ where US refers to the University Senate, XX/YY is the academic year that notice of motion was first given, and ZZ is the number of the motion, which shall be obtained from the Senate President. The Senate President shall number motions in a single sequence with each being assigned a number in the order that notice was formally given.

3.7.2.4 Sponsor(s) of a Motion. Every motion submitted to the Senate President shall be accompanied by the name, campus affiliation, and email address of each sponsor of the motion.

3.7.2.5 Notice of Motion. The date of the notice of motion to the Senate shall be included in the information about the motion sent to the Senate President and Senate Executive Secretary. Official notice of motion must be submitted in writing or email to the Senate Executive Coordinator and the Senate President for each motion prior to its consideration by the Senate. Notice of motion shall be generally given in a Senate meeting at least one month prior to its formal discussion on the Senate floor in order to provide sufficient time for Senators to comprehend and examine the motion. When that conventional requirement cannot be met, the sponsors shall give notice of motion at least 21 calendar days (3 weeks) prior to the next Senate meeting. The only exceptions to the 21 day rule shall be for motions sponsored by internal Senate Committees (e.g., Senate Executive Committee, Senate Rules Committee, Senate Budget Committee, Senate Nomination Committee, and the Committee on Committees; see Article 5) which shall have 15 calendar days to give notice to the Senate Executive Coordinator and Senate President.

3.7.2.6 Motion. The exact wording of the motion to be presented to the Senate shall be placed in this section.

3.7.2.7 Background. This section shall contain all background information concerning the motion.
3.7.2.8 Fiscal Impact Statement. Each Senate motion shall be accompanied by a fiscal impact statement. This statement shall explicitly note any cost savings, new or created costs, or that the motion is cost neutral.

3.7.2.9 Other Information. This section shall include materials not included elsewhere in the motion.

3.8 Timetable for the University President to respond to Motions passed by the University Senate. Except for the contingencies described in Section 7.4 of the University of Oregon Constitution, legislation passed by the Senate shall become effective within 60 academic calendar days, unless otherwise specified (University of Oregon Constitution Section 7.3). Policies adopted by the Senate shall be immediately forwarded to the University President for his/her action on behalf of the University within 60 days. If the University President concludes that it is not in the best interest of the University to act as requested by a resolution of the Senate, then s/he shall explain to the Senate within 60 days the reasons for inaction or amended action (University of Oregon Constitution Section 7.4).

3.9 Limits to the Authority of the University Senate. Both the University President and the Statutory Faculty Assembly (defined in the University of Oregon Constitution Section 2.3) may override legislation and resolutions approved by the University Senate according to procedures outlined in Sections 7.4 and 9 of the University of Oregon Constitution.

3.10 Distinguished Service Awards and Honorary Doctorates. The University Senate through Senate Legislation has established criteria for the granting of Distinguished Service Awards and Honorary Doctorates. The University Senate President shall declare the Senate in Executive Session when considering nominees for either of these awards. All present during these deliberations shall refrain from making public the names of the nominees until the University has officially issued a public announcement.

3.11 Modification of the Senate By-Laws. These by-laws may be altered by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the University Senate. Temporary alterations, such as allowing a visitor the right to the Senate floor, may be presented directly within a Senate meeting. Permanent modifications to these by-laws shall be proposed in the form of a formal motion and shall follow the procedures for motions as set forth in Article 3.7.

ARTICLE 4: SENATE OFFICERS

4.1 Senate President. The Senate President shall be the presiding officer of the Senate. The term of office for the Senate President shall be approximately one year, commencing at the end of the final Senate meeting in Spring Term and continuing through the end of the final Senate meeting in the subsequent Spring Term. The Senate President shall routinely consult with the Senate Vice President and immediate past Senate President on all issues facing the Senate.

4.1.1 Procedure when the Senate Presidency becomes vacant midterm. If the office of the Senate President unexpectedly becomes vacant, the Vice President shall automatically assume the office of the President for the remainder of the term of office of the former President. A Vice President who assumes the Presidency in this manner retains the position
of the President-Elect and thus shall be Senate President for an additional full year term as described in Article 4.2.2.

4.2 Senate Vice President and President-Elect. The Senate Vice President and Senate President-Elect are two separate positions that are normally held by one person. The person elected Senate Vice President is automatically elected to the separate office of Senate President-Elect.

4.2.1 Senate Vice President. The Senate Vice President shall be elected each year by the Senate at its final Spring term meeting. The term of office for the Senate Vice President shall be approximately one year beginning at the end of the final Senate meeting in the spring term s/he was elected. The responsibilities of the Senate Vice President shall include but are not limited to chairing Senate meetings when the Senate President temporarily steps down or is absent, chairing the Committee on Committees, being a voting member of the Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Advisory Council, and assisting the Senate President in governing the Senate as requested. The Senate Vice President shall assume the Senate Presidency when the Senate President vacates or resigns from the office unexpectedly as described in Article 4.1.1.

4.2.1.1 Procedure when the Senate Vice-Presidency becomes vacant midterm. If the position of Senate Vice-President unexpectedly becomes vacant, the Senate may choose to elect an interim Senate Vice President who shall not also serve as President-elect. In the event that the Vice President resigns or leaves office for any reason, s/he shall not continue to serve as President-Elect.

4.2.2. Senate President-Elect. The Senate President-Elect, who normally is also the Senate Vice President (see Article 4.2), shall automatically assume the office of the Senate Presidency at the end of the final Senate meeting in Spring term one year after his/her election to this position.

4.3 Senate Executive Coordinator. The Senate shall employ an Executive Coordinator. The duties and responsibilities of the Senate Executive Coordinator shall include but not be limited to scheduling and attending all Senate and Senate Executive Committee meetings, taking notes in Senate meetings, generating the official Senate meeting minutes, managing the Senate website, and organizing Senate and elected committee elections. The Senate Executive Coordinator shall report to the Senate President and Vice President. The person in this position shall, at the pleasure of the University President, also serve as the Executive Coordinator for the Faculty Assembly. Both positions are ex-officio and non-voting.

4.4 Parliamentarian. The Senate President annually shall appoint a Parliamentarian to the University Senate to advise on parliamentary procedures and to resolve Senate parliamentary issues. The Parliamentarian shall be well versed in parliamentary procedures and Robert’s Rules of Order.

ARTICLE 5: INTERNAL STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

5.1 Senate Executive Committee. The Executive Committee of the University Senate shall advise the Senate President, assist in setting the agenda for each Senate meeting and facilitate the
work of the Senate. Monthly meetings shall be called by the Senate President and shall be generally scheduled two weeks prior to each Senate meeting. The Senate Executive Committee shall minimally consist of the Senate President (the chair), Senate Vice President, the immediate past Senate President, the chair of the Academic Council, three tenure-related faculty Senators, one Officer of Administration Senator, one non-tenure track faculty Senator, one Classified Staff Senator, the Officer of Research Senator, one Student Senator and the ASUO President or designee. The Senate President may appoint additional members including outside faculty to serve on this committee. The incoming Senate President shall appoint all members to this committee and their terms of office shall be one year commencing when the Senate President takes office. The Senate Executive Coordinator and the Senate Parliamentarian shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Senate Executive Committee. To maintain close communication with the Senate, the University President shall be invited to Senate Executive Committee meetings on a regular basis.

5.2 Senate Rules Committee. The Senate Rules Committee shall work with the sponsors of motions and negotiations to clarify proposed Senate motions in advance of the Senate meeting at which the motion is to be presented. The University Senate Rules Committee shall consist of three Senators appointed by the incoming Senate President for a one year term commencing when the Senate President takes office. The Rules Committee shall choose its own chair.

The Senate Rules Committee is not required to report on every proposed motion, but rather shall act at the request of the Senate President. If the Senate President forwards a motion to the Rules Committee, the Committee chair shall contact the sponsor(s) of the motion to discuss possible changes to the motion. The intent of the motion shall not be altered or changed by the Rules Committee. Any conflicts between the sponsor(s) and the Rules Committee in word usage, meaning, purpose or structure of the motion or resolution shall be remedied prior to its discussion in the Senate. The Rules Committee chair shall assure that the motion has an appropriate Fiscal Impact Statement (See Article 3.7.2.7). The Senate shall act only on the version of the motion that has been reviewed by the Senate Rules Committee.

5.3 Senate Nominating Committee. The Senate Nominating Committee nominates individuals to various Senate and University Committees upon request by the Senate President. The Committees which are under the jurisdiction of the Senate Nominating Committee are internal Senate Committees, University Standing Committees, Senate members of Administrative Advisory Groups, Inter-institutional Faculty Senate, Senate ad hoc committees and other committees as requested by the Senate President or the President of the University. The Senate Nominating Committee shall also nominate candidates for President-Elect and Vice-President of the Senate. The Senate Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) current Senators appointed by the incoming Senate President. The term of office is one year commencing when the Senate President assumes office.

5.4 Senate Budget Committee. The Senate Budget Committee is the University's primary agency for faculty participation in University fiscal policy. The Senate Budget Committee is charged with informing itself and the University Community about University financial matters. It shall advise the University President, other University administrators, the Senate President, the Senate and the University Community on budgetary policy and long-term financial strategies. The University Administration shall provide all financial information requested by the Committee in a timely fashion. The Budget Committee may initiate the study of financial issues. The Senate Budget Committee shall make recommendations to the Senate for Senate action.
The Senate Budget Committee shall consist of six tenured faculty members appointed by the incoming Senate President for staggered, three year terms. The Senate President shall be an ex-officio voting member of the Senate Budget Committee during his/her term of office. The University President and Provost shall be ex-officio non-voting members of the committee and each may designate administration members to accompany and/or represent them. The University President and members of the Administration shall keep the committee informed of actions impacting the University’s budget by the Governor, the Legislature, the Oregon University System, the Chancellor's Office, University of Oregon Foundation and other organizations and individuals. The Senate Budget Committee shall choose its own chair from its membership. The Committee may establish working sub-committees.

5.5 Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees is charged with the oversight of the committee structure. The Committee on Committees shall designate the faculty membership of all appointed University Standing Committees established by Senate legislation. It may also, when appropriate, nominate the faculty to Administrative Advisory Groups and Externally-Mandated Boards. The Committee on Committees shall be charged with the annual orientation of all chairs of University Standing Committees. The Committee on Committees shall generally have 10-12 members from the Statutory Faculty as defined University of Oregon Constitution Section 2.2. To facilitate its work, the Committee membership should represent the broadest possible cross-section of campus academic units including CAS and the professional schools. Prospective members shall be identified by the Senate Vice President, nominated by the Senate Nominating Committee and elected by and responsible to the University Senate. The Senate Vice President is the chair of the Committee on Committees.

ARTICLE 6: ACADEMIC COUNCIL

6.1 Academic Council. As required by the University of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1.5, the Senate shall establish, and be advised by, the Academic Council which is charged with bringing issues relating to academic mission to the Senate with recommendation(s) for action.

6.2 Academic Council Membership. Membership of the Academic Council shall include a Statutory Faculty representative (defined in the University of Oregon Constitution Section 2.2) from each committee that has responsibilities covering academic issues, such as Academic Requirements, Committee on Courses, Graduate Council, Scholastic Review Committee, Undergraduate Council, and University Library Committee. The committees represented on the Academic Council shall be determined by the Senate and be subject to change by that body. The Provost, Senior Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs, and Senate President or designee shall be ex-officio non-voting members. Consultation with relevant members of the central administration and related committees (e.g., Academic Infrastructure Committee, Enrollment Management Council) shall be sought as appropriate (University of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1.5.1).

6.3 Academic Council Scope. The Academic Council shall act on request by any of the committees it represents, or on request by the Senate or on its own initiative. In addition, the Academic Council shall be responsible for vetting Senate motions that may affect academic excellence (University of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1.5.2).
6.4 Academic Council Representation and Rules. The Academic Council shall designate its chair, who shall sit on the Senate Executive Committee and shall have a seat in the University Senate. The Academic Council shall adopt its own internal rules and procedures (University of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1.5.3).

6.5 Academic Council Reporting. The Academic Council shall report to the University Senate. At a minimum this report shall be in the form of an annual written report submitted by the Committee Chair to the Secretary of the University Senate no later than the final University Senate meeting in May. The committee shall also make additional written or oral reports to the Senate as necessary (University of Oregon Constitution Section 8.1.5.4).

ARTICLE 7: UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES

7.1 Scope of University Standing Committees. All University Standing Committees, whether elected and appointed, are established by University Senate legislation. Their charges have broad relevance to and impact upon the general University Community. University-wide issues include, but are not limited to, general academic issues, University fiscal matters, the curriculum, campus governance, student and faculty affairs, International Programs, University awards, Intercollegiate Athletics, campus planning, and issues affecting campus atmosphere.

7.2 Classification of University Standing Committees. There are two types of University Standing Committees: appointed and elected.

7.2.1 Appointed University Standing Committees. Members of these committees are appointed by the Committee on Committees (see Article 5.5). An unexpected vacancy in an appointed committee shall be filled by the Committee on Committees.

7.2.2 Elected University Standing Committees. The Senate Executive Coordinator shall organize and oversee the elections of candidates to elected committees. If a midterm vacancy occurs in an elected committee, the Senate President and Executive Coordinator shall work together to fill the vacancy with the next eligible candidate, determined in descending order of the number of votes received in the most recent election for the relevant committee or council. If no eligible candidate is available, the Senate Executive Committee, with advice and recommendations from the Committee on Committees, shall appoint an eligible person to fill the vacancy until the next regular election cycle. Filling a vacancy shall not preclude the appointee from standing for election to the same committee or council during the next election cycle if eligible.

7.3 Reporting by University Standing Committees. All University Standing Committees report to the University Senate and are required to submit annual written reports to the Senate President and Senate Executive Coordinator. They also shall submit oral or written reports when requested by the Senate President. Except for the Faculty Personnel Committee (FPC), these reports shall be due by the final Senate meeting of the academic year in May. The FPC report shall be submitted at the October meeting of the University Senate and shall reflect the work from the previous academic year.
7.4 Participation on University Standing Committees by other University Stakeholder Groups. Many University Standing Committees have members from the student body, Officers of Administration, Officers of Research, Non-tenure track faculty and/or Classified Staff. Unless specifically stated otherwise by Senate Legislation, every member of a University Standing Committee shall have full membership rights, including the right to vote.

ARTICLE 8: INTERINSTITUTIONAL FACULTY SENATE (IFS)

8.1 Inter-institutional Faculty Senate. Created by the State Board of Higher Education in 1970, the Inter-institutional Faculty Senate (IFS) brings together faculty voices from all 7 OUS institutions. The University of Oregon has three voting IFS members, plus one alternate. The three UO IFS representatives and one UO IFS alternate shall be nominated by the Senate Nominating Committee and elected by the University Senate. Any statutory faculty member as defined in the University of Oregon Constitution Section 2.2 is eligible to run for the position of IFS representative or as an alternate. The three IFS senators serve staggered terms of three years each. The alternate shall also serve a three year term. There are no term limits for the IFS senator or alternate positions.