Constitution and Bylaws Primer

Charter/Delegated Authority

The University of Oregon is governed by the Board of Trustees, the President and the Professors in accordance with ORS Chapters 351 & 352.

Sole faculty governance authority at the University of Oregon resides in the Statutory Faculty. This authority extends to all academic matters as commonly understood in higher education. The Statutory Faculty may delegate its authority but must retain oversight responsibility.

The Statutory Faculty of the University of Oregon deleges its governance authority to the University Senate in accordance with SECTIONS 4–8 of the Constitution of the University of Oregon. The Statutory Faculty shall carry out its oversight responsibility as described in SECTION 9 of the Constitution of the University of Oregon.

Relevant ORS Chapters

“The University of Oregon recognizes the scope of faculty governance prescribed by Oregon State Law as stated in ORS Chapters 351 and 352 and does not contradict Oregon State Board of Higher Education Internal Management Directives issued prior to the date of ratification of this Constitution.”

Faculty
ORS 352.010 The president and the professors constitute the faculty of each of the state institutions of higher education and as such have the immediate government and discipline of it and the students therein, except as otherwise provided by statute or action of the State Board of Higher Education. The faculty may, subject to the supervision of the board under ORS 351.070, prescribe the course of study to be pursued in the public university and the textbooks to be used. [Amended by 1987 c.246 §4; 1989 c.492 §3; 2011 c.637 §59; 2013 c.768 §86]

President
ORS 352.004 The president of each public university within the Oregon University System is also president of the faculty. The president is also the executive and governing officer of the public university, except as otherwise provided by statute or action of the State Board of Higher Education. Subject to the supervision of the board, the president of the public university has authority to control and give general directions to the practical affairs of the public university. [Formerly 352.020; 2005 c.22 §249; 2011 c.637 §238]

Board of Trustees
Subject to the procedures set forth in ORS 352.089, the governing board of the University may, establish, supervise and control academic and other programs, units of operation and standards, qualifications, policies and practices relating to university matters such as admissions, curriculum, grading, student conduct, credits, scholarships and the granting of academic degrees, certificates and other forms of recognition. They may establish policies for the organization, administration and development of the university which, to the extent set forth in those policies, shall have the force of law and may be enforced through university
procedures that include an opportunity for appeal and in any court of competent jurisdiction. A
governing board or university with a governing board may perform any other acts that in the
judgment of the board or university are required, necessary or appropriate to accomplish the
rights and responsibilities granted to the board or university by law. [2013 c.768 §11] (ORS
352.017)

Membership

The University Senate shall consist of 51-54 voting members representing a total of
six Constituent Groups. The groups (and the number of University Senate seats to be
allotted to each group) are as listed below:
• Statutory Faculty (37 core members, plus 0, 1, 2 or 3, as indicated)
• Librarians (2)
• Officers of Administration (3)
• Students (5)
• Classified Staff (3)
• Career Non-Tenure-Track Research Faculty (1)

The student members of the University Senate shall be drawn from the (student)
academic senators as defined in the constitution of the Associated Students of
the University of Oregon (ASUO), and chosen by the ASUO University Senate
in a manner designed by the latter. The number of seats in the University Senate
allotted to students shall remain at five, independent of future changes in the
ASUO constitution.

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. (Bylaws 3.6)

Membership Expectations

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. (Bylaws 3.5.1.)

Also Found in Bylaws:
Distribution of senate seats (2.1); terms of office & reelection (2.2); voting rights & procedures
(2.4); timetable for university president to respond to motion passed by the senate (3.8); limits
to the authority of the university senate (3.9); senate officers (article 4)