IFS Election for UO Senate Position 3
Candidate: Robert Kyr

I am running for Senate Position 3 on the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate of Oregon in order to continue to represent our university as an IFS Senator. Since 2012-2013, I have been the Vice President of IFS, and as a current member of its Executive Committee, I am very familiar with the purpose and mission of the organization. This level of experience has prepared me to continue serving as one of our university's three IFS Senators.

If I am elected, one of my primary goals will be to fully realize an initiative that I began this year at the UO and in the IFS, which directly addresses the issues of school violence and campus safety, including sexual violence and survivor support. I began this initiative in response to the shooting at Umpqua Community College, which took place on Thursday, October 1, 2015, and resulted in the deaths of ten individuals, including the shooter, who took his own life.

Over the past two months, I have initiated and led two legislative efforts (resolutions) related to the issues of school violence and campus safety. First, within a week of the UCC shooting, I wrote a resolution for the UO Senate that offered our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, and commended President Schill for his responsiveness to the needs of the UCC community. As the final part of the resolution, I volunteered to “...pursue effective vehicles for ongoing substantive discussion...[through the] Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS)...and through engaging the UO Senate in the process of addressing these crucial matters for our university community, as appropriate.”

This resolution was approved by the UO Senate at our first meeting of the academic year (Wednesday, October 7, 2015), and may be accessed through the following link (US15/16-02):

http://senate.uoregon.edu/content/support-ucc-survivors-and-call-action-regarding-school-violence

Second, as promised, I took the UO resolution to the IFS at its October 9-10 meeting. At that time, I asked the body to consider taking responsibility for initiating and convening a statewide conversation among universities and community colleges—including significant faculty and student participation—that will lead to meaningful action. At this same meeting, the IFS met with Ben Cannon, the Executive Director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), with whom I discussed the proposed initiative. He offered to collaborate with the IFS to convene a statewide conversation (or “conference”), since this is within the purview and authority of the HECC.
These discussions led directly to IFS legislation that included a resolution, which I co-wrote. The legislation authorized the delegation from each IFS member school to present the following resolution to its own Senate for consideration, as follows:

**“2.1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the [name of institution] Senate offers its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the survivors of the Umpqua Community College (UCC) shooting, and to all those whose lives have been directly affected by this tragedy; and

**2.2 BE IT RESOLVED** that the [name of institution] Senate agrees to work with the IFS to address the threat of violence in our schools through means appropriate to our campus; and

**2.3 BE IT RESOLVED** that the [name of institution] Senate supports the efforts of IFS to collaborate with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene a statewide conversation regarding violence in our schools, including gun violence, which will lead to meaningful action.”

The UO Senate was the first body to pass this resolution (on October 21st), and within a month, it was approved by all of the University Senates of the IFS member schools. [Please note that the IFS is comprised of seven institutions in addition to our university: Oregon State University; Portland State University; Western Oregon University; Eastern Oregon University; Southern Oregon University; Oregon Institute of Technology, and Oregon Health and Science University.] The full text of this resolution may be accessed through the following link (US 15/16-03):

http://senate.uoregon.edu/content/support-ifs-resolution-addressing-violence-our-schools

The next step is for the IFS to work with the HECC in order to convene a statewide conversation (a conference) to address violence in our schools and campus safety, including sexual violence and survivor support. The conversation will include all of the IFS member institutions, as well as community colleges from throughout Oregon. If I am elected as a returning IFS Senator, I will continue to play a leadership role in this ongoing effort, as authorized by the UO Senate through US 15/15-02, and as requested by the IFS when I was reelected as Vice President of the organization.

I care deeply about fulfilling my responsibilities as one of the IFS Senators representing the University of Oregon. If I am elected, I will continue to work in a fully committed way on the issues that most concern us—including school violence, campus safety, sexual violence, and survivor support—which are critical for our university community and our entire state.