

Jon Krier, Museum of Natural and Cultural History

University Senate seat

I am running for a two-year term for the Career NTTF/Research position on the University Senate. This is my first time running for the University Senate. I have worked for the Research Division of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History since late 2018, though it was not until 2022 that I was officially reclassified as career-non-tenure-track faculty (as opposed to pro-tem). Since shifting over to a career classification I have proudly joined United Academics, and I would very much like to gain a better understanding of the way that the University is led and operated.

I was hesitant to run for University Senate as someone working in a non-teaching, soft-money-funded faculty position, but I feel that I can provide a distinct perspective as someone who works for the University in a non-traditional role. The Research Division of the Museum operates as a self-funded cultural resource management contractor, primarily working with the Oregon Department of Transportation and other government agencies at the state and federal level. We are an example of the broad spectrum of positions, research, and funding sources that fall under the University of Oregon umbrella.

I received my Master's from Oregon State University, but my connection to the University of Oregon goes back to my time as a (non-traditional) undergrad student here, where I worked for the Museum from 2011 to when I began my graduate studies in 2015. One of the great pleasures of doing cultural resource work for the University is that I have the opportunity to find and explore the histories of poorly represented or unrecognized populations in Oregon's past. A recent example was identifying the site of one of Eugene's first Chinese Restaurants, which opened a window onto the largely undocumented history of Chinese Americans in early 20th century Eugene. We were able to contribute an article to the Oregon Historical Quarterly special Winter 2021 issue on the "Chinese Diaspora in Oregon.