

Kathleen J. Mullen, Economics

Faculty Advisory Council 2023 Candidate Statement

I recently joined the University of Oregon, in Fall 2022, as an Associate Professor and Petrone Chair in Economics. My research addresses intersections between health and work. A longstanding focus of my research examines the effects of health on employment, particularly as they relate to disability insurance systems (such as Social Security Disability Insurance and Workers' Compensation programs) and disability policy more generally. A second strand of research focuses on the role of job demands and working conditions in determining health status and labor force participation, particularly at older ages. My research has been published in top academic journals and I have served on national expert panels, including a recent technical panel convened by the Social Security Advisory Board to study demographic and economic projections relating to financial solvency of the OASDI Trust Funds. Prior to joining UO, I spent 14 years at the RAND Corporation, a non-profit, nonpartisan research institute based in Santa Monica, CA, where I held several leadership positions including serving a three-year term as Associate Director of RAND's Economics, Sociology and Statistics Department supporting approximately 150 Ph.D. and masters-level researchers. I also directed the RAND Center for Disability Research, the RAND Postdoctoral Program in the Study of Aging, and the annual RAND Summer Institute Workshop on the Demography, Epidemiology and Economics of Aging. I am interested in joining the Faculty Advisory Council to learn more about and actively contribute to the University's mission and policies, and I hope that my background as a new faculty member coming from outside of academia brings a new, useful perspective.