

## **Kersey Bars, Candidate Statement**

Dear University of Oregon Colleagues:

My name is Kersey Bars, and I am running for one of the Classified Staff seats on the University of Oregon Senate. I have been an employee at the University of Oregon for the past 6 years. For the first 5 years, I worked as a Painter for Campus Planning and Facilities Management and for the most recent year I have worked in Environmental Health and Safety as an Occupational Health and Safety Specialist. Prior to my time as an employee, I spent many hours of my childhood running around campus, as my mom has been an employee at UO since 1998. Due to the place in my heart that UO has always held, I was excited to begin my employment in 2018.

During my time at UO, I was the interim Vice President for SEIU 503, sub-local 085 (April 2021-June 2022). At the same time, I served as a member of the FASS/CPFM Diversity Committee and in 2022, I was the Classified Staff Representative and Stakeholder for the Gallup Campus Climate Survey. As a result of the work that I participated in for the Campus Climate Survey, to ensure that employees who did not have regular access to a computer were provided the time, space, and technology to complete the survey, I was awarded the 2023 UO Senate Classified Staff Leadership Award. Most recently, I was the Classified Staff Representative on the Tuition and Fees Advisory Board. My experience as an employee, combined with each role I have served on campus, has provided me with perspective of the concerns that the University of Oregon and UO employees face. More specifically, concerns surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion for employees and chronic issues with funding for public institutions of higher education.

Should I be elected to serve as one of the Classified Staff Representatives, then I will use this platform to continue to promote the issues that matter to classified staff and to the UO community. More specifically, I will continue to advocate for issues surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion for employees at UO. Additionally, I will use this to urge for collaborative effort from UO and the UO community, as well as the other state schools, to advocate for additional funding for all public universities in the state of Oregon. Thereby enabling UO to continue to fulfill our mission of striving for excellence in teaching, research, artistic expression, and the generation, dissemination, preservation, and application of knowledge.

It is my passion in collective action that drives me to want to serve as a representative for classified staff, and to collaborate with the other members of the University of Oregon Senate to make the University of Oregon a welcoming and inclusive place for all to work and learn.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kersey Bars