

Laurel Hamers Candidate Statement

I'm running for University Senate because I'm excited to participate in the process of shared governance. I've been a science writer in University Communications since 2021—you may have read my work in Around the O. My stories also get sent out as news releases, to garner media coverage of the research happening here and help build our reputation as a world-class research institution. Every day, I take technical content and aim to distill it into something that's clear, impactful, yet still accurate. This drives my writing, and I also believe that it powers effective governance and the ability to turn ideas into action.

As someone tasked with telling the UO's story to an external audience, I spend a lot of time thinking about how our policies and practices reflect our values as an institution. My role puts me in close contact with other OAs and classified staff, but also with faculty, graduate students, and undergrads. I see firsthand how various university policies affect different groups across campus, from attracting and retaining diverse faculty, to ensuring students thrive both academically and socially, to supporting the staff who make the university tick. As a member of the University Senate, I'd be honored to help make our university community better from the inside, and help build an institution where everyone—students and employees at all levels—can grow, learn and feel valued.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to be able to serve you on the University Senate!