

## Sara Mason, Candidate Statement

Dear colleagues, I am seeking to serve on the Faculty Advisory Council.

I have worked in service to the University of Oregon a total of nearly 10 years. I have worked in University Advancement, in two units SOJC and CAS, Student Life in Career Services, and currently in Mohr Career Office Industry and Alumni Engagement at Lundquist College of Business. I am an alumnus of the University of Oregon, and the parent of two Ducks, one graduated, one currently enrolled. Prior to working at the University, I worked in sales and editorial development for a higher education vendor, Pearson Education, in which I covered every department and supported hundreds of faculty, instructors, and staff on campus for nearly six years.

I have participated in the University Leadership Academy, served on the OA Council, and University Senate. I completed the Leadership Academy Peer Coaching program as well. As a member of the OA council, I was asked to be part of the DEI Climate Survey Advisory Group. I also participate in the Native Strategies Group. Professionally I have attended CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) conferences and trainings, as well as been involved with NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers). I served on the Career Competency Revision Committee and Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee for NACE. I also applied and was selected to present with a colleague from South Carolina at the NACE 2022 Conference on "Professionalism and Equity and Belonging."

I am deeply passionate about the student experience and ensuring all students access their full potential while at Oregon. I was the first in my nuclear family to attend college and felt very uncertain as I navigated systems. I struggled to transition from my liberal arts degree to my career, which has made landing in external relations for career support all the more meaningful to me. I deeply value the role and mission of higher education to equip informed, thoughtful, engaged citizens and humans into their lives and communities. I also feel we must offer a strong bridge to careers as well. We are not a trade school; however, we are developing critical thinkers and problems solvers with the human skills that the workforce will need more and more in the changing landscape of the workforce.

In my current role I work with alumni, industry experts, and HR/Talent Acquisition/Recruiters to "sell" our students and engage external stakeholders to support student career education, experience, building networks, and getting hired. I also work closing with students, student club leaders and members, student staff (Career Peer Educators), advising colleagues, and faculty. If elected to the Faculty Advisory Council, I plan to advocate and take shared action to advance key priorities, including Student Learning and Achievement, Campus Belonging, and Career Success.