

**Pedro García-Caro, Associate Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies, UO Senator (CAS-Humanities). Candidate for Vice President position (2024-25).**

1. Why are you running for the position of University Senate Vice President and what specific goals or initiatives do you hope to accomplish if elected?

I want to continue working towards strengthening our structures of shared governance, the clearest guarantee of academic freedom and academic integrity on our campus. I believe the University Senate is the prime space to facilitate faculty, staff, and student participation in the governing of the university, we need to reinvigorate it and strengthen its role.

Three key goals are:

1. Developing more active participation of Faculty across all ranks, in both campus-wide committee work and in the Senate itself. I want to develop a stronger communication channel between the senate and the statutory faculty, and between senators and their constituents, through both the website and through resuming open, in-person senate meetings, as well as caucus facilitation.
2. The strengthening of the Budget committee and oversight capabilities of our senate in relation to the alignment of our educational mission with our status as a public university and the complexities of a donor-driven institution. The proposed Task Force on ethical investment will help re-envision how our senate will participate in keeping a focus on our educational and research missions.
3. The redefinition of core education at the UO. Many of our comparators have engaged in a more comprehensive conversation and overhaul of core education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, OSU is the latest to have announced a re-envisioning of core education to be launched in 2025. We are very well positioned to engage in this redefinition in a more ambitious and creative way.

2. What experiences have prepared you for the responsibilities of being Senate Vice President?

I have been a senator for several terms over the last 15 years. I have served in several key committees across the UO, including the Scholastic Review Committee, the Senate Executive committee, the Task Force for the re-envisioning of CAS, the Task Force on Sudden Academic Disruptions, the Core Education Council, the former Committee of Committees (which I helped rename as the Committee on Oversight and Shared Governance last year), IFS, among others. I also have served as Secretary and Vice President for Shared Governance and Academic Freedom in AAUP Oregon (2017-2021), and since 2021 I serve as co-editor with Michael Dreiling of the AAUP national *Journal of Academic Freedom*.

3. How do you foresee establishing a productive and collaborative relationship with the Senate constituents, the President, and Provost?

I think the roles of the vice president and president of the UO Senate are key in maintaining and enhancing productive and working channels of communication between the President and Provost and all other Senate constituents, the statutory faculty, students, and staff. I have a long track record as a mediator, community-building member of the senate and of various committees, and I have already established a great set of productive conversations with the current president, Karl Scholtz, with outgoing provost Ford, as well as with previous presidents and provosts over my years working in the senate, IFS, and the AAUP. I have no doubt that I will be able to represent and maintain a robust and productive working relationship with our administration leaders while also enhancing our culture and practice of shared governance at the UO.