

Oregon State University's Shared Governance with The Associated Students of Oregon State University

I. PURPOSE

The Associated Students of Oregon State University will have a significant and meaningful role in the institutional governance of our university. The following statement describes the ways in which students will be involved in shared governance at Oregon State University and the objectives and guiding principles we have established for that involvement.

II. OBJECTIVES

It is important that we concretely demonstrate the value and importance that we have for the student voice and the crucial role of that voice in the growth, development and success of Oregon State University. In this regard, we must assure that the student voice is included in and influences decisions made relative to the educational process – this includes academic matters, issues related to student life, services, and other issues that affect Oregon State University and students.

It is important that we validate the distinct knowledge and contributions that students bring to decision-making processes.

Students are deeply invested in helping Oregon State University to achieve success. For this reason we must engage them as partners in shared governance.

We recognize students' rights to autonomy in the identification of those who will represent them in the governance structure.

Strong institutional leadership is required if we are to encourage and facilitate student involvement in University decision-making

III. PRINCIPLES

The focus and intent of the current policy is to recognize the necessity and value of student involvement in shared governance at Oregon State University.

We commit that students shall have an institutionalized role allowing input and involvement in decision-making related to, but not limited to the following domains of university life and campus governance:

1. Academic policies
2. Student codes of conduct
3. Institutional budgeting and planning
4. Selection and appointment of administrators, faculty, and staff members
5. Tuition, fees, room and board rates
6. University mission and vision
7. Institutional strategic planning and priority-setting

IV. EVIDENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION

There will be active, formal student involvement in the following Oregon State University commissions, committees, councils, workgroups, and other governance structures. Our processes will provide evidence of a clear and substantial student role in institutional activities governance at Oregon State University. In this process all committees will need to request student members through the established ASOSU process.

Cabinet

The Cabinet is the primary leadership body on the Oregon State University campus. This group advises the President concerning policy, leadership, and management issues. The ASOSU President is a standing member of the Cabinet.

Faculty Senate

The ASOSU President is also a standing member of the Oregon State University Faculty Senate. The Senate is the official representative voice of the faculty at Oregon State University. There are numerous Faculty Senate standing committees, the majority having student representation. The committees cover a wide spectrum of institutional issues. The President of Faculty Senate bears primary responsibility for ensuring student representation on Faculty Senate committees and that Faculty Senate leadership understands their responsibility to support shared governance. The ASOSU has primary responsibility for recruitment to these positions.

Oregon State University Committees, Advisory Boards and Commissions

ASOSU officers and other at-large members of the ASOSU are standing members of numerous Oregon State University committees, advisory boards, workgroups, and commissions and often play a key participatory role.

Search and Screening Committees

We include student perspectives in the screening and selection of candidates for administrative, faculty, and staff positions. It is necessary for search and screening committees to include students in all stages of the search process, including recruitment, candidate screening, reference checking, and interviews.

Unit, Program, and Institutional Reviews/Evaluations

We regularly conduct reviews of academic and non-academic units and programs for the purpose of evaluating effectiveness and making decisions about realignment. Students play an important role in these reviews, and routinely respond to opportunities to participate and provide input.

Students play a role in the formal university accreditation process via participation in the Accreditation Steering Committee, student surveys, and interviews with commissioners during the on-site visitation.

V. MINUTES, AGENDAS, AND STUDENT QUORUM

Records of all meetings of boards, commissions, and committees shall be made available within the bounds of open records laws. In addition, meeting agendas should be made

available to all members in a time frame that allows all members the necessary preparation time. Oregon State University is committed to including student perspectives in its deliberations and decisions. To this end, it is important that appropriate student representation is included on boards, commission, and committees. Furthermore, meeting conveners should be sensitive to schedules and life situations of all members when selecting meeting times. Meeting conveners should be mindful of the academic calendar by avoiding scheduling meetings during finals week and university recognized holidays and breaks to ensure maximum student participation.

VI. RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING STUDENTS' ROLE IN SHARED GOVERNANCE

The President of Oregon State University provides leadership for our institution's adherence to the principles of shared governance. We will periodically review this document with the leadership of the ASOSU to determine the degree to which our practices align with our aspirations. Should specific questions or challenges arise concerning adherence to the commitments expressed in this shared governance document, those concerns will be addressed jointly by the President of the Associated Students of Oregon State University, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and any other relevant persons.