

# The Edward J. Ray Doctrine

Oregon State University  
Our Commitment to **Shared Governance** with  
The Student Population at Oregon State University, as represented by  
The Associated Students of Oregon State University

## I. PURPOSE

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

## II. OBJECTIVES

It is important that Oregon State University concretely demonstrates the value and respect held for the student voice and the crucial role of that voice in the growth, development, and success of the university. In this regard, the university must assure that meaningful student participation<sup>1</sup> is included in the educational process – this includes, but is not limited to all policies and processes regarding academics, student life, university services, and other issues affecting students.

The university believes that it is important to recognize and appreciate the distinct knowledge and contributions that students bring to decision-making processes.

The university believes that students are deeply invested in helping Oregon State University achieve success. For this reason, the university recognizes them as partners in shared governance.

The university recognizes the right of students to autonomy in the process of identifying and electing their peers whom will represent them in the governance structure.

The university believes that strong institutional leadership built on student-administration collaboration 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 institutionalize the presence of student involvement<sup>1</sup> in shared governance at Oregon State University.

The university commits that students shall have a defined participatory role in processes related to:

1. University mission and vision
2. Institutional strategic planning and priority-setting

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<sup>1</sup> Student participation/involvement is broadly defined as appropriate student presence in all proceedings regarding educational processes along with student voice and input which shall be collected with a guarantee of being taken into consideration in decision-making processes.

3. Institutional budgeting and planning
4. Academic policies
5. Selection and appointment of administrators, faculty, and staff members
6. Student codes of conduct
7. Tuition, fees, room and board rates

#### IV. EVIDENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION

There will be active, formal student involvement that will ensure student voice in the process 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 be required 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.

##### **University Policies and Standards**

Student involvement and input will be part of the consideration of every proposed university policy and standard. This includes the student code of conduct, academic regulations, and University Housing and Dining Services policies. It is imperative that university policy and standards processes have direct and substantial student involvement to ensure that students can address areas of concern prior to implementation. Accordingly, at least one student will be seated on the university Executive Policy and Standards Committee and all other relevant committees, for all policies and standards that impact students.

##### **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, each of which must have student representation. The committees cover a wide spectrum of institutional issues that are pertinent to student life. 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 play a key role in decision-making. This includes the ASOSU President sitting on the President's Cabinet and the ASOSU Vice President sitting on the Provost's Council.

##### **Search and Screening Committees**

We include the opportunity for student perspectives in the screening and selection of candidates for administrative, faculty, and staff positions.

### **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 week 10, 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.