

I teach at Portland State University. I support the expansion of faculty, staff, and student positions on BoTs, increased oversight, and HECC reforms in this bill. That said, these measures are not sufficient to address the multi-level failure of governance and administration that is running our public universities into the ground. Additionally, prohibiting trustees who are university employees from voting on collective bargaining agreements, which this bill does, largely nullifies their ability to advocate for university employees. Unless the legislature gives employee trustees equal decision-making power and terms of equal length to regular members, BoTs will probably continue to do whatever university finance and administration officers recommend, which in recent memory has been hiring more administrators, hiring corrupt university presidents, raising tuition, and cutting costs by laying off instructors and replacing full-time employees with part-time employees, to avoid paying benefits. Right now, overpaid university administrators across the state are protecting their own jobs at the expense of students, faculty, and Oregon taxpayers, and BoTs are enabling this. I fear that this bill will not make it significantly more difficult for them to continue doing so. University administrators and BoTs have had ample opportunity to solve the problems created by the dissolution of OUS, and have consistently failed. It's time to explore alternatives to appointed BoTs.