



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

March 1, 2021

Senator Dembrow, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 233

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Committee,

I write to you on behalf of the more than 6300 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members across Oregon.

SB 233 would create a common course numbering system at Oregon's public universities requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to consult with administrators, faculty, and students on how to best establish such a system. Having a strong faculty voice on any future "Transfer Council" will ensure that academic freedom, intellectual property, and other crucial faculty concerns are built into the process and system. Most importantly, *faculty involvement will help set the process on solid footing, guarantee consistent education outcomes, and help to build a less burdensome and more equitable higher education system for our students.*

We urge you to consider having faculty nominations be made by the Oregon Inter-Institutional Faculty Senate (IFS), which represents Oregon's public university faculty as a whole, and has representatives from each university senate. Given most community colleges do not have academic senates, we defer to those institutions and their representatives to suggest other means of appointing faculty members at Community Colleges. Please ensure that SB 233 builds in robust, meaningful places for faculty input to the HECC as they move to adopt a common course numbering system for Oregon all with the goal of best serving our students.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Dreiling', is written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Michael Dreiling
President, AAUP-Oregon