

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules
DATE: September 20, 2023
BY: Leslie Porter, Analyst
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

The Governor has appointed the following individuals to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission subject to Senate confirmation.¹

New Appointees

Rachel Biscoe of Albany
Evelyn Kocher of Portland
Gayle Yamasaki of Klamath Falls

Term

Biscoe: October 5, 2023 – June 30, 2025
Kocher: October 5, 2023 – June 30, 2027
Yamasaki: October 5, 2023 – June 30, 2027

Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 350.050 \(2021\)](#)

Statement of Economic Interest²

Required.

Composition³

The commission consists of 15 Oregon residents serving as voting members who are well informed concerning the principles of higher education.⁴ Membership includes:

- one public university undergraduate student (ARNOT);
- one public university graduate student (SIPELLI);
- one public university faculty member (SIMNITT);
- one community college student (**BISCOE**);
- one community college faculty member (ROJAS-GALVÁN); and
- one public university or community college nonfaculty staff (MATIAS).

¹ [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562 \(2021\)](#) and [ORS 171.565 \(2021\) \(2019\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2021\)](#).

³ [ORS 182.100 \(2021\)](#) for affirmative action policy and [ORS 236.115 \(2021\)](#) for diversity criteria.

⁴ [ORS 320.050 \(2021\)](#).

- one member from each of the six congressional districts⁵ (FAJARDO (CD1), **YAMASAKI (CD2)**, **KOCHER (CD3)**, HAMANN (CD4), EDWARDS (CD5), DEVLIN (CD6)); and
- three members of the general public⁶ (ADAMS, BECKER, ROWE).

The Governor shall elicit recommendations for student, faculty, and staff appointees. Appointees from the congressional districts and from the general public serve four-year terms and the remainder serve two-year terms. All members serve at the pleasure of the Governor and are eligible for reappointment. The Governor may, at any time, for cause, remove any member of the board after notice and public hearing, but not more than three members shall be removed within a period of four years, unless it is for corrupt conduct in office.⁷

The commission selects its chair and vice chair. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum. The commission must meet at least once every three months.⁸

Duties⁹

The commission works to ensure access to post-secondary education and academic success. It also convenes groups, institutions, and other stakeholders across the spectrum of public and private education. The commission must:

- establish educational attainment goals for adults not currently enrolled in a post-secondary training program, in coordination with the State Workforce and Talent Development Board;
- appoint an executive director;
- develop goals for post-secondary education, including community colleges and public universities, and for student access programs;
- determine strategic investments, and adopt a strategic plan, to achieve goals;
- coordinate post-secondary data collection and structure;
- recommend a consolidated higher education agency request;
- adopt rules governing the distribution of appropriations;
- approve or deny any significant change to the academic program of a community college or public university;

⁵ This reflects a change in membership, established by House Bill 3564 (Chapter 557, Oregon Laws 2023), due to the addition of a sixth congressional district, established in [Chapter 1, Oregon Laws 2021 \(first special session\)](#).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ [ORS 350.050 \(2021\)](#).

⁸ [ORS 350.060 \(2021\)](#).

⁹ [ORS 350.018 to 350.610 \(2021\)](#).



- approve mission statements adopted by public universities; review specified fee increases; advise the Governor and the Legislative Assembly about university governance issues; authorize degrees offered;
- authorize degrees offered by independent post-secondary institutions;
- oversee the licensing of career schools;
- administer a statewide longitudinal data system and conduct longitudinal studies and reporting of early learning, kindergarten through Grade 12 education, higher education, and workforce programs, in coordination with the Department of Education, the Employment Department, and other state agencies;
- implement a review process for, and appropriately act on, student complaints;
- advise the Governor and the Legislative Assembly, , community colleges, public universities, and other state boards and commissions on specified policies;
- ensure the implementation of diverse educator recruitment plans;
- make specified reports to the Legislative Assembly;
- work with institutions of higher education to achieve specified goals and appoint an advisory committee to coordinate implementation;
- administer specified funds and grant programs and adopt administrative rules;
- monitor and report on participation of specified groups in higher education;
- conduct annual reviews of each public institution of higher education with respect to the employment of all employee groups at the institution; and
- develop standards for transferring and awarding education credits, in consultation with community colleges and public universities.

The commission may:¹⁰

- establish advisory and technical committees;
- enter into contracts and agreements;
- refer to a designee the investigation and resolution of a student complaint, as appropriate, due to the nature and content of any allegations made;
- adopt administrative rules;
- delegate powers, duties, or functions to a committee or the executive director;
- accept donated money or property;
- apply for funding from any source and accept and arrange for its receipt as appropriate; and
- prescribe tests and other measures to evaluate high school equivalency tests.

¹⁰ [ORS 350.070 to 350.640 \(2021\)](#).



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Agency: **Higher Education Coordinating Commission**

Policy Area: **Education**

Authorization: **ORS 350.050 & .060; ORS 351.715**

Board Admin: **Ben Cannon**

Min Members: **14** Max Members: **15**

Address:

Term Length: **4** Term Limit: **2**

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

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Current Appointments

Dr Cross, Terry L	Term(s):	7/1/2019 - 6/30/2023
CD 3		11/20/2015 - 6/30/2019
Position Number: 1		

Kocher, Evelyn	Term(s):	10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027
CD 3		
Position Number: 1		

Ms Yamasaki, Gayle S	Term(s):	10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027
CD 2		
Position Number: 2		

Mr Fajardo, Arnel M PhD	Term(s):	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025
CD 1		
Position Number: 3		

Ms Adams, Rukaiyah N	Term(s):	11/19/2021 - 6/30/2025
At-Large		
Position Number: 4		

Ms Becker, Vanessa A	Term(s):	7/1/2019 - 6/30/2023
At-Large		1/1/2018 - 6/30/2019
Position Number: 5		

Devlin, Richard	Term(s):	3/1/2022 - 2/28/2026
CD 6		
Position Number: 6		

Mrs Edwards, Helen L	Term(s):	10/2/2020 - 6/30/2023
CD 5		
Position Number: 7		

Dr Hamann, Gregory J CD 4 Position Number: 8	Term(s):	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025
Ms Rowe, Sandra "Sandy" M At-Large Position Number: 9	Term(s):	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025 9/25/2017 - 6/30/2021
Simnitt, Emily Faculty Position Number: 10	Term(s):	7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024
Rojas-Galván, Fernando Community College Faculty Position Number: 11	Term(s):	7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024
Biscoe, Rachel Community College Student Position Number: 12	Term(s):	10/5/2023 - 6/30/2025
Arnot, Natalie Undergraduate University Student Position Number: 13	Term(s):	7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024
Matias, Aislyn Non-Faculty Staff Position Number: 14	Term(s):	3/1/2022 - 2/29/2024
Sipelii, Motutama Graduate Student Position Number: 15	Term(s):	3/1/2022 - 2/29/2024

Vacant Positions
