



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

April 27, 2023

To: House Committee on Higher Education

Re: SB 273A – Support

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Ruiz, McIntire and members of the committee,

My name is Greg Monahan, and I am the Vice President of the Association of Oregon Faculties. I am also an historian, and we like to say that hindsight is often 20/20. Hindsight tells us that breaking up the Oregon University System may well have been a mistake. It created lots of individual little university boards without, unhappily, doing much to govern how they would be constituted and how they would respond to the constituencies over which they suddenly found themselves in charge. Ever since that time, we have been trying to fix what we did. SB 273-A is an important part of that continuing effort. It adds a representative of an important constituency to the Board in the person of a graduate student and requires that every Board put into actual practice the Memorandum of Understanding coming from SB 854 that we thought all had agreed to several years ago.

At Eastern, where I taught, the Board recently appointed one of its own non-academic members as temporary acting co-president with a non-academic vice president of administration as the other co-president of the university while it oversees a search for what we somewhat optimistically hope will be an academic president. From a faculty's perspective this is not ideal. We hope SB 273-A amendments will keep such things from happening. We support SB 273-A because it will at least create some consistency in behavior and response across these various governing boards and will add an important voice to each board in the form of a graduate student and an additional undergraduate student. The more university constituencies we can add who can help these board members understand how it is that institutions of higher education actually should work, the better they can do their jobs. That, at least, is our continuing, optimistic hope. On behalf of our members, I would urge you to support SB 273-A.

Thank you,

Greg Monahan, Vice-President
On behalf of the Board
Association of Oregon Faculties

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<http://oregonfaculties.org>