

# Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules  
DATE: January 27, 2025  
BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative Analyst  
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



**LPRO**  
LEGISLATIVE POLICY  
AND RESEARCH OFFICE

## HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

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The Governor has appointed the following individual to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission subject to Senate confirmation.<sup>1</sup>

### New Appointee

Helen Edwards of Bend

### Reappointee

Helen Edwards of Bend

### Terms

March 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

### Appointment/Confirmation Authority

[ORS 350.050 \(2023\)](#)

### Statement of Economic Interest<sup>2</sup>

Required.

### Composition<sup>3</sup>

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

- one public university undergraduate student (ARNOT);
- one public university graduate student (SIPELII);
- one public university faculty member (SIMNITT);
- one community college student (BISCOE);
- one community college faculty member (MIDDLETON);
- one public university or community college nonfaculty staff member (SMITH);
- one member from each of the six congressional districts (FAJARDO (CD1), YAMASAKI (CD2), KOCHER (CD3), HAMANN (CD4), PROCTER ANDREWS (CD5), DEVLIN (CD6)); and
- three members of the general public (**EDWARDS**, MARTINEZ, ROWE).

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<sup>1</sup> [Or. Const. art. III sect. 4](#), [ORS 171.562](#) and [171.565 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> [ORS 350.050 \(2023\)](#); [ORS 182.100 \(2023\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2023\)](#) for diversity criteria.

Appointees from the congressional districts and from the general public serve four-year terms and the remainder serve two-year terms. The Governor may, for cause, remove any member after notice and a 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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

## **Duties<sup>6</sup>**

The commission works to ensure access to post-secondary education and academic success. The commission must

- establish educational attainment goals for adults not currently enrolled in a post-secondary training program;
- appoint an executive director;
- develop goals for post-secondary education;
- 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 academic programs;
- approve public university mission statements; review fee increases; advise the Governor and Legislative Assembly about university governance issues; and authorize degrees offered by independent post-secondary institutions;
- oversee the licensing of career schools;
- administer a statewide longitudinal data system;
- implement a review process for, and appropriately act on, student complaints;
- advise 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;
- 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; and
- develop standards for transferring and awarding education credits.

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<sup>4</sup> [ORS 350.050 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>5</sup> [ORS 350.060 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>6</sup> [ORS 350.018 to 350.640 \(2023\)](#).



## Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Agency: **Higher Education Coordinating Commission**

Authorization: **ORS 350.050**

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

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

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

Policy Area: **Education**

Board Admin: **Ben Cannon**

Address:

**Higher Education Coordinating Commission**

**255 Capitol Street NE**

**Salem, OR 97310**

**503-947-2379**

**Ben.CANNON@hecc.oregon.gov**

## Current Appointments

**Arnot, Natalie**

Public University Undergraduate Student

Position Number: **1**

Term(s): **7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026**

**7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024**

**Sipelii, Motutama**

Graduate Student - Public University

Position Number: **2**

Term(s): **3/1/2022 - 2/29/2024**

**Simnitt, Emily**

Public University Faculty Member

Position Number: **3**

Term(s): **7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026**

**7/1/2022 - 6/30/2024**

**Biscoe, Rachel**

Student - Community College

Position Number: **4**

Term(s): **10/5/2023 - 6/30/2025**

**Middleton, Mary**

Faculty - Community College

Position Number: **5**

Term(s): **10/1/2024 - 6/30/2026**

**Smith, Jennifer**

Nonfaculty Staff (Public University or Community College)

Position Number: **6**

Term(s): **7/1/2024 - 6/30/2026**

**Mrs Edwards, Helen L**

Public Member

Position Number: **14**

Term(s): **7/1/2025 - 6/30/2029**

**3/1/2025 - 6/30/2025**

**10/2/2020 - 6/30/2023**

**Mr Fajardo, Arnel M PhD**

CD 1

Position Number: **7**

Term(s): **7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025**

<b>Ms Yamasaki, Gayle S</b> CD 2 Position Number: <b>8</b>	Term(s):	<b>10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027</b>
<b>Ms Rowe, Sandra "Sandy" M</b> Public Member Position Number: <b>15</b>	Term(s):	<b>7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025</b> <b>9/25/2017 - 6/30/2021</b>
<b>Kocher, Evelyn</b> CD 3 Position Number: <b>9</b>	Term(s):	<b>10/5/2023 - 6/30/2027</b>
<b>Dr Hamann, Gregory J</b> CD 4 Position Number: <b>10</b>	Term(s):	<b>7/1/2021 - 6/30/2025</b>
<b>Procter Andrews, Jennifer</b> CD 5 Position Number: <b>11</b>	Term(s):	<b>2/16/2024 - 6/30/2027</b>
<b>Devlin, Richard</b> CD 6 Position Number: <b>12</b>	Term(s):	<b>3/1/2022 - 2/28/2026</b>
<b>Martinez, Theresa</b> Public Member Position Number: <b>13</b>	Term(s):	<b>2/16/2024 - 6/30/2027</b>

## Vacant Positions