



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 12, 2025

Senate Committee on Education

Re: House Bill SB 478 – Support

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the more than 6,300 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 Tech, and our faculty members in advocacy chapters across Oregon, we urge you to support SB 478.

Institutional boards of trustees are most effective when the students, staff, and faculty of that institution are full voting members of the board. Passage of SB 478 will ensure that student representatives on community college boards are empowered to fully represent their constituents in the board decision making process by having the same voting rights that all other board members currently possess. Community college students deserve to directly influence decision making through their votes as the decisions made by trustees deeply impact the student body. Oregon's public university students already have these rights enshrined by law, and it is long past time for community college students to have these same rights.

In addition, institutional boards are more effective when trustees are accessible to the university community and the general public. Trustees' decision-making process should not be made in a vacuum, and by making institutional email addresses for each trustee publicly available, the legislature can ensure that the voice and interests of the community is heard by institutional boards. Again, this is a reform that has already been implemented at Oregon's public universities, and there is no reason why community colleges should not implement the same level of accessibility for their community.

Please support SB 478. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon