



Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee,

My name is Connie Seeley, and I serve as chief of staff and executive vice president, chief administrative officer at Oregon Health & Science University.

OHSU is Oregon's only public academic health center. Our 22,000 dedicated employees and more than 5,000 students embark every day to advance OHSU's unique missions of teaching, healing and discovery.

Our commitment to those values carries through in the work we do to move our institution forward. As the board secretary of OHSU for more than a decade, it has been my honor to guide and support the searches for two presidents. While OHSU does not currently have any statutory guidance in the way we carry out those searches, it has been practice over the years to adhere to the spirit of the search process outlined for Oregon's seven other public universities in ORS 352.096, and the goals of House Bill 2695.

OHSU's last presidential search, which commenced in late 2017, included 20 members¹. Among the search committee were members of the OHSU board of directors, institutional leaders, OHSU faculty and staff, including the president of AFSCME Local 328, as well as two state university presidents and health care leaders in the state.

As we embarked on a new presidential search late last year, we gathered 25 leaders from throughout the OHSU community and Oregon², with a similar make up to the 2017 search, to help guide the process to select a new leader. This includes two AFSCME representatives – a member of AFSCME Research Workers United and the president of AFSCME Local 328. While this year's search did not

¹ OHSU Board of Directors announces presidential search committee, executive search firm, OHSU News, Nov. 17, 2017 <https://news.ohsu.edu/2017/11/17/ohsu-board-of-directors-announces-presidential-search-committee-executive-search-firm>

² OHSU Board of Directors announces presidential search committee, OHSU News, Dec. 20, 2024 <https://news.ohsu.edu/2024/12/20/ohsu-board-of-directors-announces-presidential-search-committee>

include a university president, it does include the chair of Southern Oregon University's board of directors.

OHSU believes in a presidential search process guided by the people who serve and are served by OHSU every day. We know that our responsibility as the state's only public academic health center means that OHSU's president represents much more than just our campus and our people, which is why we are supportive of House Bill 2695. Now and into the future, OHSU is committed to ensuring that members of the community – both those who serve on our campus and those who rely on OHSU – have a voice in who leads the institution.

We appreciate your consideration of this legislation, and your ongoing interest in the future of OHSU and the dedicated people who make OHSU such a special place.

Sincerely,

Connie Seeley
Chief of Staff
Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer
Oregon Health & Science University