



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

April 2, 2025

Senate Committee on Education

Re: SB 5 – Oppose

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

On behalf of the more than 6,300 faculty represented by 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 oppose SB 5.

Oregon's public universities have world-class faculty dedicated to advancing the instructional and research missions of their institutions. They are hired into these positions based on policies set by institutional faculty senates and academic departments, which require that all members of the faculty have the requisite academic expertise and work experience to meet the educational needs of our students. Typically, this means faculty must have a terminal degree and/or significant work experience in the field.

Though the intent of the bill is to ensure that all institutions have the same minimum criteria, passage of SB 5 would not improve the already high quality of education that students in Oregon's public universities already receive. Instead, this bill would only serve to further diminish shared governance at our public institutions. Determining the minimum qualifications for hiring new faculty is the right of the faculty senate and academic departments alone, and it is improper for institutional boards composed largely of Trustees whose core experiences are not as members of the academic workforce to supersede the expertise of the faculty. The role of faculty to determine these qualifications has been a best practice since 1940, when the American Association of University Professors, the American Council of Education, and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges jointly authored their [Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities](#).

Please oppose SB 5. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes

Executive Director, AAUP Oregon