

Faculty Senate

Suite 650, Market Center Building (MCB)
1600 SW 4th Avenue
Post Office Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751
<http://www.pdx.edu/faculty-senate>

503-725-4416 tel
fax 503-725-5262
secretary@pdx.edu

April 16, 2013

Rep. Michael Dembrow
Higher Education and Workforce Development, Chair
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Dembrow,

As the Presiding Officer of Portland State University's Faculty Senate, I write to weigh in on the issue of representation on potential institutional governing boards. Last year's Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Institutional Governing Boards presented a report in June 2012 that included the following findings:

The Portland State Faculty Senate supports the creation of a Portland State University Institutional Board. In accordance with the PSU Faculty Constitution, Portland State Faculty support rests on the assumption of explicit support for shared governance in the board's charter.

A. A PSU institutional board charter must reserve to the PSU Faculty the power to act in matters of educational policy and to enact rules on matters of establishment, or major alteration of the educational function of Portland State University.

B. A PSU institutional board charter must reserve to the PSU Faculty the weight of the PSU Faculty voice in fundamental areas of curriculum, subject matter, methods of instruction and research, faculty status and aspects of student life relating to the educational process.

On April 15, the PSU Faculty Senate Steering Committee discussed recent developments on institutional board membership in proposed legislation HB 2149. On May 6, the Portland State Faculty Senate is scheduled to hold a discussion about the issue. While we understand that different campuses may have different needs for board composition, *the PSU Senate Steering Committee is opposed in principle to legislation that specifically precludes any member of our campus community from full voting membership*. The PSU Faculty Senate Steering committee which includes three recent Presiding Officers as well as the Presiding Officer-elect believes the majority of the PSU Faculty Senate will feel similarly. Shortly after the May 6th meeting, I will forward to the Higher Education and Workforce Development committee the resulting statement or resolution. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Daasch, 2012-2013 Presiding Officer
Portland State University Faculty Senate