



May 1, 2015

Professor Robert Kyr
Senate President
University Senate

Dear President Kyr:

I am writing in response to *Senate Legislation 13/14-50 regarding Selection of the UO Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR)*. As I indicated in my remarks to the University Senate on April 8, 2015, this motion makes incorrect assumptions, seeks to remove the appointment selection from the president, and is not in the best interest of the university. I cannot support this legislation and I respectfully request that the senate withdraw this senate action for the following reasons:

- (1) The motion misunderstands the role of the FAR on this and other campuses.

As outlined in the UO [FAR position description](#), the FAR is the eyes and ears for the president on all matters related to student-athlete welfare, academics, and compliance issues. It is important that the FAR has a direct reporting line to the president in order to provide effective information, provide a faculty voice on athletics issues, and to assure the university is meeting its responsibilities and obligation of institutional control of the athletics programs. The FAR handbook provides the following advice:

Faculty athletics representatives provide oversight and advice in the administration of an institutional athletics program. **The working relationship between the chief executive officer and the faculty athletics representative is a critically important determinant** of the effectiveness of the faculty athletics representative in contributing to the local control of the intercollegiate athletics program.

- (2) The motion departs from the standard practices for selecting and appointing FARs. It proposes a FAR selection process that strips the president's appointment authority of any meaning.

In the PAC-12 all but one of the FARs are appointed by the respective presidents or chancellors with varying degrees of participation by faculty governance bodies. The Stanford FAR is appointed by the provost. In most

cases where consultation occurs, it is with the institution's intercollegiate athletics advisory committee, not the faculty senate.

At the schools where a faculty body is consulted, the process does not include the level of faculty engagement proposed in this legislation. The proposed "election" process threatens to politicize the position and impede the president's ability to select an appropriate FAR. The University Senate does not have the authority to overrule a presidential appointment for this or other administrative positions.

- (3) The motion incorrectly states that the FAR selection process conducted in 2014 did not have faculty input. It also ignores a contractual agreement between the university and the current incoming FAR.

The current FAR was appointed by President Michael Gottfredson following a search process that appropriately included faculty in the process. The process involved the senate via the senate president, included faculty and an IAC member on the search committee, and sought faculty input throughout the process.

The current transition from a FAR with more than 20 years of experience to the new FAR is underway and going well. Tim Gleason, the incoming FAR, has spent the better part of a year preparing to fully assume the position and to complete a smooth transition. He is ready to work with all interested parties to fulfill the duties of the position and to work to improve academic/athletics relations, including participation in the IAC and annual reports to the senate.

As the Senate President and I discussed in our meeting on April 30, 2015, future FAR appointments will be subject to the Policy on Hiring of Academic Executive Administrators under consideration by the senate at its May 20, 2015 meeting.

I request the senate withdraw this legislation.

Sincerely,



Scott Coltrane
Interim President
University of Oregon