



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

May 6, 2015

Professor Robert Kyr  
Senate President  
University Senate

Dear President Kyr and senators:

I am writing in response to Senate Legislation US14/15-61, *UO Faculty to Nominate UO Faculty Trustee*. As you will recall, this motion was considered under a suspension of senate rules and therefore did not allow adequate time, as suggested in Senate Bylaws, for senators to “comprehend and examine the motion.” I also note that the motion was approved as “legislation” which, according to our UO Constitution, is “limited to issues that relate to academic matters as commonly understood in higher education.” This motion is not an academic matter. I respectfully request that the senate withdraw the legislation and offer the following thoughts for consideration.

I agree that faculty should have a role in the recommendation process for faculty trustees, just as staff and students should have role in the recommendation of their respective positions. However, the election process envisioned in this hastily drafted legislation would create a politically charged process of campaigning and electoral politics among the statutory faculty and senators. This exercise is not only counterproductive to successful service as a faculty trustee but is unnecessary. There is nothing to preclude the Senate, or any member of our campus community, from recommending eligible people to the governor as potential trustees.

This legislation appears to be based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the nominating process. By Oregon law, only the Governor can nominate people as university trustees, and does so to the Oregon Senate. The university, or any other entity or individual, may only suggest names for the Governor’s consideration. They do not “nominate” trustees.

The Board of Trustees of the University of Oregon is poised to consider how best to submit university recommendations to the governor for future appointments and will appropriately include faculty, staff, and student input

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

1226 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1226 T (541) 346-3036 F (541) 346-3017 [www.uoregon.edu](http://www.uoregon.edu)

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into those discussions. I look forward to engaging you and senate members in these conversations at a future time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Coltrane", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Coltrane  
Interim President