

Resolution: UO Senate opposition to HECC Recommendations to periodically review academic programs

Type: Resolution

Date of Notice: January 23, 2026

Sponsor(s): Dyana Mason, Senate President (College of Design), Edward Davis, Senate Vice President (Earth Sciences)

Motion

Section I

- 1.1 Whereas the University of Oregon Statutory faculty, as represented by the University of Oregon Senate hold an essential role in the governance of all academic matters as commonly understood in higher education,
- 1.2 Whereas shared governance over academic matters is an essential component of academic freedom for UO faculty.
- 1.2 Whereas the curriculum of the University, as defined by its academic departments and programs, is an essential part of the academic mission and purpose of the University,
- 1.3 Whereas the University of Oregon Senate and its committees lead a thorough and diligent process to approve new programs, and review changes to existing programs at the University of Oregon,
- 1.4 Whereas the faculty of the University hold the expertise, that cannot be replicated by an outside entity, to make programmatic decisions in the best interest of the University, and its students.
- 1.4 Whereas the UO and its degree programs undergo regular review by internal offices and external accreditors on a frequent basis, leading to program revisions.

- 1.5 Whereas the UO recently reviewed and renewed all core education courses in collaboration with UO Senate committees, faculty and staff.
- 1.6. Whereas the University Senate has worked along with the Office of the Provost to develop and execute best practice procedures to approve and review programs at the University of Oregon
- 1.7 Whereas the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) does not possess the expertise, experience or commitment to the University of Oregon to review academic programs in the best interest of UO's students, faculty and staff.

Section II

2.1 Therefore the University of Oregon Senate formally opposes recommendation #2 of the HECC's January 2026 report on "Spending and Efficiency in Oregon Public Universities that would, "*require academic degree programs at public universities to be periodically reviewed and renewed by HECC*", as this would violate the fundamental principles of shared governance and academic freedom for the faculty of the University of Oregon

2.2 The University of Oregon Senate also urges HECC to exhibit caution, and deference to the principles of shared governance while "developing a proposal for targeted institutional integration by January 2027"