

**OSU Faculty Senate  
OSU Government Relations  
OSU Provost's Office**

# **FACULTY POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT**

*why, who and how?*



**Oregon State  
University**

# Agenda

Convener: Bob Mason, OSU Faculty Senate President

- Panel 1 – *The role of internal and external OSU advocacy and its legal ramifications*
  - **Becca Gose**, General Counsel
  - **Jock Mills**, Government Relations Director
  - **Gabrielle Serra**, Director of Federal Affairs
  - **Bill Perry**, The Beaver Caucus
- Panel 2 – *Examples of how faculty advocacy has worked*
  - **Paul Jepson**, Integrated Plant Protection Center, College of Agricultural Sciences
  - **Dan Arp**, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences
  - **Belinda Batten**, College of Engineering
- Panel 3 – *What are Faculty looking for?*
  - **Gloria Krahn**, College of Public Health and Human Sciences
  - **Julie Brandis**, College of Engineering
  - **Geoff Huntington**, College of Forestry
  - **Tuba Özkan-Haller**, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
  - **Roberta Riportella**, Extension Family and Community Health
- **Discussion/Q&A**

# Legal/Policy Restrictions

- May not, in OSU capacity or using OSU resources, support or oppose (a) ballot measures or (b) candidates.
  - May, of course, participate fully in support/opposition of ballot measures/candidates in your personal, non-OSU capacity and with personal resources. (May be prudent to clarify that not speaking on behalf of OSU)

# Legal/Policy Restrictions, continued...

- For other legislative support/opposition, may only do so on behalf of OSU/committing OSU to a position if authorized (i.e., working with Director of Government Relations or Director of Federal Relations)
  - If participate in legislative session as faculty member (but not on behalf of OSU), remember to clarify that your OSU title is “for identification purposes only” in written materials and confirm that you are not speaking on behalf of OSU.

# Legal/Policy Restrictions, continued...

- Political advocacy organizations – the same rationale applies.
  - You can participate in your OSU capacity so long as (a) they are not supporting/opposing candidates or ballot measures, and (b) you are not committing OSU to a position without authority.
  - **Beaver Caucus** – OSU has worked with them to confirm that they are not supporting/opposing candidates or ballot measures. They are coordinating with OSU Government Relations, and you are welcome to get involved!
    - Different situation – Beaver PAC, which supports candidates/ballot measures. No OSU employee can participate in the PAC with OSU resources or in their OSU capacity. Personal capacity fine, as always.

# Government Relations Office

- State

- Legislative advocacy
- Budget development
- Gubernatorial appointments to state commissions and boards
- Participation in the HECC Process

- Federal

- Legislative advocacy and engagement
- Agency advocacy and engagement
- University faculty strategic support



## Contacts –

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# Panel 2

*How has faculty advocacy worked in the past?*

## State

**Paul Jepson**, Integrated Plant Protection Center, College of Agricultural Sciences

**Dan Arp**, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences

## Federal

**Belinda Batten**, College of Engineering



# Panel 3

*What are faculty are looking for and how can Government Relations & General Counsel help?*

**Gloria Krahn, College of Public Health and Human Sciences**

**Julie Brandis, College of Engineering**

**Geoff Huntington, College of Forestry**

**Tuba Özkan-Haller, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences**

**Roberta Riportella, Extension Family and Community Health**

# What to Know When you Testify

## Prepare your Written Testimony

Government relations can help with:

- A. Protocol – “Chair Smith, and members of the committee.”
- B. Tone, clarity, structure
- c. You are in charge of the facts – Never shave the truth



# Prepare Summary Sheet

- A. The chair often tells witness to summarize, even during expert testimony
- B. Practice your testimony but plan to read highlights – do not read your testimony
  - “Let Me Summarize”
- C. Protocol – Government relations can help  
“Chair Smith, Representative Jones”
- D. Prior questions – feel free to respond- but never impugn others.
- E. Tough question? “Can you clarify?” “I don’t know.” “I will get back to you.”
- F. Committee participation – they might not be there.



# Legislators are usually nice to guests

- Twenty years at the capitol, no one ever died testifying.
- Lobbyists are generally nice to guests – but don't engage in a conversation unless invited.
- Your government relations team can sometimes do prep work, example: Preparing committee members ahead of time, building allies etc. You help with preparation too!



# Question & Answer

*Next Steps?*

*Future topics?*