

ASUO Student Senate, February 14, 2009
Senate Bill SS.R.4 (2008/09)

Authored by: ASUO Senate

Sponsored by: Senators Cassandra Gray, Emma Kallaway, Carina Miller, Nathan Perley, Noor Rajabzadeh, Lidiana Soto, and Sandy Weintraub

SUMMARY

Declares support for the academic mission of the University of Oregon first and foremost, in light of the 2010 commencement exercises being moved to the weekend prior to final exams in lieu of the NCAA Track and Field Championships.

A BILL FOR RESOLUTION

Section I.

- 1.1 *Whereas*, The University of Oregon has decided to move the 2010 commencement exercises to the weekend prior to final exams in order to host the NCAA Track and Field Championships; and
- 1.2 *Whereas*, The University of Oregon has the following mission statement [emphasis added]:

The University of Oregon is a comprehensive research university that serves its students and the people of Oregon, the nation, and the world through the creation and transfer of knowledge in the liberal arts, the natural and social sciences, and the professions. It is the Association of American Universities flagship institution of the Oregon University System.

The university is a community of scholars dedicated to the highest standards of academic inquiry, learning, and service. Recognizing that knowledge is the fundamental wealth of civilization, the university strives to enrich the public that sustains it through

- a commitment to undergraduate education, with a goal of helping the individual learn to question critically, think logically, communicate clearly, act creatively, and live ethically
- a commitment to graduate education to develop creators and innovators who will generate new knowledge and shape experience for the benefit of humanity
- a recognition that research, both basic and applied, is essential to the intellectual health of the university, as well as to the enrichment of the lives of Oregonians, by energizing the state's economic, cultural, and political structure
- the establishment of a framework for lifelong learning that leads to productive careers and to the enduring joy of inquiry
- the integration of teaching, research, and service as mutually enriching enterprises that together accomplish the university's mission and support its spirit of community
- the acceptance of the challenge of an evolving social, political, and technological environment by welcoming and guiding change rather than reacting to it
- a dedication to the principles of equality of opportunity and freedom from unfair discrimination for all members of the university community and an acceptance of true diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community
- a commitment to international awareness and understanding, and to the development of a faculty and student body that are capable of participating effectively in a global society

- the conviction that freedom of thought and expression is the bedrock principle on which university activity is based
- the cultivation of an attitude toward citizenship that fosters a caring, supportive atmosphere on campus and the wise exercise of civic responsibilities and individual judgment throughout life a continuing commitment to affordable public higher education ; and

1.3 *Whereas*, the University of Oregon outlines the following values in the draft Academic Plan dated January 12, 2009 [emphasis added]:

- Liberal education at our core
- Academics on a human scale
- Respectful stewardship
- Institutional agility/core strengths
- Resourceful creativity.

Section II.

- 2.1 *Be it resolved that* the ASUO Student Senate, as elected representatives of the student body, officially declares support of the academic mission of the University of Oregon first and foremost. The ASUO Student Senate respectfully requests that the University of Oregon refrain from compromising this mission with athletic events in the future.
- 2.2 *Be it resolved that* the ASUO Student Senate endorses University Senate motion US08/09-4-Request for data collection on effects of moving 2010 commencement to accommodate the NCAA Track & Field Championships.