

## Senate Vice President / President-Elect Candidate Statement for Elizabeth Skowron

I am a professor in the Department of Counseling Psychology and Human Services. I serve as core faculty in the Ph.D. programs in counseling psychology (APA-accredited) and prevention science, and I advise doctoral students in each program. I teach courses in research design, clinical interventions for children and families, and supervise undergraduate, masters, and doctoral research and doctoral clinical training. My research uses tools from counseling psychology, child clinical psychology, and developmental neuroscience to study factors that contribute to developing healthy self-regulation skills in early childhood and among adults in the context of parenting. My students and I are particularly interested in understanding and preventing child abuse & neglect, through study of (a) risk and resiliency processes, and (b) mechanisms through which effective family-based interventions operate. The translational goal of our NIH-funded research is to inform development and refinement of effective family interventions that interrupt aversive parenting, reduce suffering, and enhance the quality of life for children, youth, and families.

I have been involved in faculty governance since arriving to the University of Oregon 5½ years ago. During my first year on campus, I worked with colleagues to shepherd a new graduate program in prevention science through College and University approval processes and I served as program director through 2016. I serve on the College of Education faculty personnel committee, the university's faculty advisory committee, the ombuds advisory committee, and I chair the Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee. In past years, I have co-chaired the University Scholarship Committee and served on faculty and administrator search committees, and participated on faculty mentoring panels organized by the Provost's office.

Beyond my contributions to university service, I also serve on several NIH grant review panels, and served on a Regional Fulbright Review Panel for Ireland & Netherlands following my stint as a Fulbright Scholar to Ireland several years ago. I am an active member of the Society for Research in Child Development, and am a Fellow in the American Psychological Association's Divisions of Counseling Psychology and Family Psychology. My service to the profession of psychology draws upon my expertise in the areas of family psychology, child abuse prevention, and psychotherapy research and practice. As a professor here at the UO, I believe that our primary mission is to (a) train students to develop knowledge and skills in their chosen areas of inquiry, (b) support students' diverse professional aspirations and goals, and (c) generate high quality, new knowledge, scholarship, and/or creative works that can enhance the quality of life for all.

The University Senate, as the primary legislative body at the University of Oregon, is at the core of our shared governance and holds a vital role in ensuring academic freedom and integrity, as well as supporting our students so they leave the University of Oregon as independent, critical thinkers. As such, I believe that the Senate should represent all constituents at the University of Oregon (i.e., statutory faculty, NTTF faculty, librarians, OAs, classified staff, and students) through the process of shared governance, and in representing these constituencies as a whole, serve as primary authority on academic / educational matters at the University. I am interested in serving the UO by contributing to serving this mission of shared governance. I understand that serving on the University Senate requires considerable investment of time and energy, and I am very grateful for your work, as members of the Senate. I hope to be given the opportunity to join you in these efforts next year. I have watched this

past year as you have worked together, and with members of the Administration, to do some really great things for our University, such as passing expedited tenure, denouncing white supremacists, tackling core education reform, and addressing needed changes with teaching evaluations. I also know that there are other important topics that could benefit from the Senate taking a leading role on, such as updating university conflict of interest guidelines, supporting partners of new faculty & staff on campus; providing greater support to our research faculty; supporting new synergistic initiatives across colleges, between traditional coursework and practice, and research and practice; and recognizing and incentivizing university service. I think that there is a lot that we can accomplish together as a Senate, building on the work that Chris Sinclair and Bill Harbaugh have undertaken this year.

My overarching goals will be to strengthen the University Senate and its role in asserting effective oversight on academic matters at the university. I have been direct with Bill about my goal to help put *UO Matters* out of business because of progress we achieve in these efforts. I will continue work already underway to strengthen effective working relationships between Faculty and the Administration, and work hard to strengthen communication and collaborative decision-making. I will lobby the Administration to engage the University Senate in Academic leadership initiatives, meetings, and decision-making. As Senate Vice President and Committee on Committees Chair, I would plan to work on ways to improve the structure of Senate and University Committees, and to explore efficiencies and connections to administrative decision-making, where those exist. Together, I will work with university colleagues to support and extend shared faculty governance, to promote a diverse and inclusive academic community, to strengthen our research enterprise, and to defend academic freedom.

I have spoken with the president and provost and I understand a bit about the things they are interested in accomplishing together next year. For example, I know that they would like to re-examine how we conduct university program reviews. Having recently participated in our Department's program review, I understand it to be a significant undertaking involving considerable time and effort from the Department Chair to Program Directors, Program Faculty, staff, and students. Clarifying the core intent of program reviews would be beneficial to ensure these are useful and not overly burdensome. Further, while I think it will be important to work closely with administrators, I want to emphasize that as faculty, we do not work for them. In other words, while I think that it is important to build and maintain strong working relationships with the Administration, I will not hesitate to speak directly and in opposition if/when actions are taken that run counter to shared faculty governance or I believe are not in the best interests of the University. Those who know me well know that I tend to speak frankly and I will continue to do so in my dealings with the Administration. I will ask that my colleagues in the Administration do the same. Likewise, my relationship with incoming Senate President Bill Harbaugh will involve similar frank and honest discussions on matters of agreement and areas of divergence.

In sum, I deeply appreciate the commitment that everyone here at the University of Oregon—faculty, staff and administrators—has to serving our University. Over the years, there have been many strong leaders in the University Senate. With your support, I hope to be given the opportunity to become one of them. I think there is a lot that we can accomplish together to continue moving our University forward.