

Candidate Statement

Louisa Hooven

United Academics of Oregon State University

My name is Louisa Hooven and I am asking for your support to represent Region 1 on the AAUP Council as part of the *Faculty United for the Common Good* candidate slate.

My father ran away from home before finishing high school and rode the rails during the Depression. With the help and support of friends and mentors, he managed to get a GED and finally a PhD, and made significant contributions to science as a university researcher. The ability of higher education to transform lives and build the foundation of society is the cornerstone of my personal history, and what we are all passionate about.

From staff, part-time instructors, lab managers and postdoctoral researchers, all the way up to tenured professors overseeing large teaching and research programs, each of us contribute to this mission. We each deserve respect and support for our continued work towards the common good that higher education provides to our students and communities. Broad-based coalitions that bring all of us together including students, faculty, and communities, across disciplines and ranks are needed to achieve our vision of wall-to-wall organizing in and beyond our campuses.

It's no longer my Dad's university. There is a crisis in higher education, from disinvestment leading to rising tuition and student debt, the commodification of education and enrollment, and the devaluation of a growing contingent workforce. Attacks on tenure and the influence of money and politics on academic freedom are increasing, and add to the uphill battle to address historic harms and create more equitable institutions. Issues with housing and childcare are examples of the pressures that our institutions place on both workers and the surrounding communities. Each of our institutions are unique, and these crises play out a little differently between and within institutions.

AAUP has long provided leadership for many of our shared issues related to the crisis in higher education. To increase our organizing reach, we need to listen and understand how AAUP's core principles apply across multiple settings. What does Academic Freedom mean to a postdoc? How can research faculty be involved in Shared Governance? Why should Instructors care about Tenure? How much do we know about Equity amongst contingent faculty? For truly wall-to-wall organizing, we need to hear each other's stories and perspectives.

Although my Dad became an academic, my path to the university has been a meandering one. I started out at a community college and then worked at print shops for a decade before coming back for a BS then PhD. In addition to a Typesetter and Graphic Designer, I've been a Graduate Teaching Assistant, a Postdoc, a Faculty Research Assistant, Research Associate, and now a non-tenured soft-money supported Assistant Professor and Instructor. If elected to the AAUP Council, I look forward to reflecting not just on my own experiences, but also making sure we are listening to how we can address the crisis in higher education for every faculty member.

Biography

Current Position

Assistant Professor, Senior Research / Instructor
Department of Horticulture
Oregon State University

Education

PhD Biochemistry and Biophysics
Oregon State University 2004

BS Biochemistry and Biophysics
Oregon State University 1997
Minor in Spanish

Union Activities

AAUP

Oregon State University AAUP Chapter member 2010-

AAUP Oregon Conference Legislative Committee 2020-
AAUP Oregon Conference Vice President for Political Action 2021-

United Academics of Oregon State University

UAOSU Organizing Campaign 2016-2018

UAOSU Bargaining Team 2018-2020

UAOSU Grievance Chair 2021-