



# Public and Government Affairs Update



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## STATE RELATIONS

### **Legislature convenes...and convenes again; Historic split legislature to tackle budget**

The 76<sup>th</sup> session of the Oregon Legislature kicked off on January 10 with Governor John Kitzhaber’s inauguration, legislative swearing-in ceremonies, and bill introductions. As part of the legislature’s new schedule of annual sessions, legislators then recessed for the remainder of the month.

In a historic occurrence, the House of Representatives this session is split evenly,  
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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### **Parade celebrates champions on the field, in the classroom, and in the community**

The University of Oregon is winning national recognition across the board from from athletics to academics to student performances. This was the motivation behind the “Celebrating Champions” parade from campus to downtown Eugene on January 22.

Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy proposed the parade and the idea was implemented through a partnership with the city, UO  
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## FEDERAL RELATIONS

### **President Obama signs COMPETES Act into law after House passage**

President Obama signed the America COMPETES (Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science) Act, into law in the beginning of January, marking what the White House called “a milestone on this nation’s path to building an innovation economy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” The bill was sent to the President’s desk for his signature after the House of Representatives passed the bill shortly before Christmas. Congressional observers had begun to wonder whether Congress would be able to pass the bill before the year-end adjournment.

The University of Oregon strongly supported passage of The America COMPETES Act, and  
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*For more information about this newsletter, please contact Jared Mason-Gere at (541) 346-5381 or [jaredm@uoregon.edu](mailto:jaredm@uoregon.edu). If you are interested in inviting government officials to a UO event, please contact us first at 346-5020 or [gcr@uoregon.edu](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu). We can help!*

## PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**UO featured at Springfield and Eugene State of the City events**

Three days after the Ducks were in the national spotlight at the BCS Championship in Glendale, UO football quarterback Nate

Costa received recognition of a different sort at the Springfield State of the City Address.



**Lundberg**

At the kick-off event for the city on January 13, Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg recognized Costa for his leadership, work ethic, and attitude. Costa recently completed an internship in the Springfield Police Department.

Community members from throughout the Eugene metro area packed the lobby of the Hult Center on January 4 for the annual Eugene State of the City address.



**Piercy**

Mayor Kitty Piercy gave one of two community awards to the team of people involved in the Federal Courthouse Garden project.

U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken launched the garden as an opportunity to give federal offenders a way to ease the transition from life in prison to community life. UO faculty, staff and students from the School of Architecture and Allied Arts and the Holden Leadership Center have been involved in all aspects of the project. Additional partners include the City of Eugene, EWEB, Rain Bird, United Pipe, Territorial Seed Company, Fall Creek Nursery, Lane Forest Products, Eugene Sand and Gravel, and Rexius.

This is the second year in a row that Mayor Piercy recognized the university for a community award. In 2010, the UO was a co-recipient of an award given to a community group involved in the development of the Walnut Station form-based code guiding the growth of the area along the Franklin Boulevard corridor east of campus.

STATE RELATIONS

**Key higher ed reform proposals gain steam in Legislature**

The Legislature has indicated that higher education will be a priority for discussion in the 2011 session. Several key pieces of education reform legislation have been introduced and are expected receive careful deliberation. The UO's New Partnership initiative was introduced in the form of [SB 559](#), which increases accountability to students, taxpayers, and legislators by creating a local governing board; and [SJR 20](#), which seeks to prevent further tuition increases by stabilizing funding through the creation of an endowment. Both pieces of legislation have gained bi-partisan sponsorship by legislators from throughout the state.

The UO is also supporting [HB 2118](#), legislation introduced by the Oregon University System which will increase the university system's autonomy, updating a higher education framework instituted in 1929.

A bill designed by an interim task force on higher education, [SB 242](#), is currently under consideration by the Senate Higher Education Committee. SB 242 includes efforts to increase flexibility in the way Oregon's public universities are governed.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**Leaders explore Matthew Knight Arena at home opening of Ducks women’s basketball**

On January 23, more than 80 public officials, community leaders, and their families and friends attended “Explore Oregon” and toured the recently completed Matthew Knight Arena.



“Explore Oregon” is a series of events hosted by the Office of Government and Community Relations and tailored for policy makers and civic and community leaders. Each program is a stand-alone opportunity to learn about an aspect of the University of Oregon in some depth.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**Reverse vendor trade fair builds relationships through outreach**

The 2011 UO Reverse Vendor Trade Fair, held January 25 at the Club Room at Autzen Stadium, brought together local business vendors and UO representatives who have contracting and purchasing responsibilities.



Over 600 participants representing more than 400 different businesses attended the event, including owners and staff representing 75 minority, women, and small emerging businesses. Representatives from 39 university departments were joined by 17 additional agencies, including EWEB, the city of Springfield, Oregon State University, Lane Community College, and the Oregon University System.

In the 2009-2010 year, the UO spent \$327 million with 6,784 vendors. Of that total 70% was spent with Oregon vendors, and 89% comprised of contracts worth \$25,000 or less.



STATE RELATIONS

**Kitzhaber Releases 2011-2013 Recommended Budget**

Governor John Kitzhaber’s 2011-13 Balanced Budget was released Tuesday, February 1. The governor’s budget is a request to the Legislature that requires legislative deliberation and action before it can be implemented.

Some key points from the Governor’s budget pertaining to higher education include:

- The General Fund and Lottery Funds budget for the Oregon University System is reduced by 4.9 percent from the 2009-11 legislatively approved budget. Including federal revenues received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in the 2009-11 budget the reduction is 11.9 percent.
- With reduced funding, OUS is expected to prioritize undergraduate education and graduate programs directly related to state workforce goals such as health care engineering, and teacher education. Research funding in areas related to state economic development goals is expected to be maintained.
- A total of \$406.9 million is included for 27 OUS Capital Construction projects and reserves at all seven universities, including \$6.45 million for the UO.
- Total funding for the Opportunity Grant program is increased from \$101.8 million to \$115 million. If funded, this amount is expected to allow the Student Assistance Commission to make as many as 17,000 more awards in 2011-13 than in 2009-11.

- UO projects included in the request are funding to transition Barnhart and Riley residence halls away from steam heat; improvements to Earl Hall’s fire safety system; preservation of the Bean Complex brick exterior; energy efficiency improvements and building envelope restoration of Barnhart Hall.

A link to the full budget report can be found at: [http://oregon.gov/DAS/BAM/docs/Budget\\_Policy/2011-13\\_GBB.pdf](http://oregon.gov/DAS/BAM/docs/Budget_Policy/2011-13_GBB.pdf).

STATE RELATIONS

**Governor’s staff takes shape; UO, Eugene connections strong**

With a goal of having all staff in place by February 10, Governor John Kitzhaber has announced many of the key staff positions that will guide his administration throughout the coming four years.

Nancy Golden, superintendent of the Springfield School District will serve as the Governor’s education advisor. Superintendent Golden previously was the director of the UO’s Administrative Licensure program in the School of Education.

Former Eugene resident Curtis Robinhold will serve as Kitzhaber’s chief of staff. He served as natural resources advisor in the first Kitzhaber administration prior to graduate school and a stint in the private sector.

Kitzhaber’s labor and human services advisor Duke Shepard and intergovernmental relations director Greg Wolf are both University of Oregon graduates.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## Elections change makeup of local government

While the composition of the Eugene City Council changed only slightly in 2011, the Springfield City Council and the Lane County Board of Commissioners have experienced significant changes.

Eugene City Councilor Pat Farr, who previously served on the council from 1999 to 2002, and as a representative to the Oregon Legislature from 2002-2004, replaces retiring councilor Jennifer Solomon. The rest of the council remains the same. To learn more, [visit the Eugene Mayor and City Council website.](#)

The constitution of the Springfield City Council has changed substantially. After ten years as mayor, Sid Leiken won a seat as on the Lane County Board of Commissioners and resigned as Springfield mayor in December. Christine Lundberg, a Springfield City councilor since 1999, was elected by her fellow councilors to serve as his replacement. The ward 1 position she vacated was filled by appointment by Sean Van Gordon. Other recent additions to the council are Sheri Moore and Marilee Woodrow, who join veterans Joe Pishioneri, Dave Ralston and Hilary Wylie. See background of the Springfield Mayor and City Council on their [website.](#)

On the Lane County Board of Commissioners, newcomers Sid Leiken (Springfield) and Jay Bozievich (West Lane) join Faye Stewart (East Lane), Pete Sorenson (South Eugene) and Rob Handy (North Eugene). More information is available at the [Lane County home page.](#)

STATE RELATIONS

## Legislature to honor Duck football

The Oregon House Rules committee unanimously passed a resolution honoring the 2010 Duck football team last week, sending the legislation to the full House for a vote as early as February. Sponsored by Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem), and House Co-Speakers Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg) and Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), the resolution, [HCR 10](#), states that the members of the Oregon Legislature, on behalf of Oregon, “recognize, honor, and celebrate the achievements of the University of Oregon football program during the 2010 regular season” including participation in the BCS National Championship Game. A copy of the resolution is to be presented to the football team after enactment.

STATE RELATIONS

## Advocates voice support for UO



**President Lariviere discusses the role of higher education in Oregon on OPB’s “Think Out Loud”**

With the 2011 Legislative Session underway, UO advocates, are getting active in support of the university and higher education.

Whether writing to lawmakers, authoring letters to the editor, or signing up to attend the April 15 UO Day at the Capitol, advocates are making sure Oregon elected leaders know higher education is important to

their constituents.

Sign up to advocate for UO at <http://newpartnership.uoalumni.com> and join other UO Advocates on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/UOAdvocates>



## **Legislature Convenes**

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with 30 Democrats and 30 Republicans. Leaders from each party spent weeks negotiating the leadership and committee structure of the chamber, ultimately deciding on Co-Speakers as presiding officers, and Co-Chairs and Co-Vice-Chairs of each house committee. Rep. Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg) and Rep. Arnie Roblan, (D-Coos Bay) a graduate of the university’s education graduate program, were selected by their colleagues as Co-Speakers. A number of Ducks and Eugene-Springfield area legislators were tapped for key committee chairmanships.

It is expected that because of the even split in the House, and a Senate that is also narrowly divided, 16 Democrats and 14 Republicans, only bills with a broad bipartisan support will gain traction this session.

The state budget negotiations will also have a marked impact on the way the legislature operates in 2011. With the state facing a deficit that amounts to approximately 25% of the total budget, new policy initiatives will take a back seat to addressing fiscal matters.

One policy issue that will be a focus of lawmakers is higher education reform. A number of bills have been introduced to restructure the way higher education is administered in Oregon, and will feature prominently in discussions in 2011.

After recessing through most of January, the Legislature officially re-opened the 2011 session on Tuesday, February 1.

## **Parade**

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Athletics, and the university’s office of Government and Community Relations.

The parade and program honored the UO football team, its history-making season and trip to the BSC Championship. The joyous event attended by thousands of celebrants also featured the National Champion UO Gospel Singers, the hit a cappella group On the Rocks, seen recently on NBC’s “The Sing Off”, and the national championship Debate Team. The UO provided a majority of the 49 parade entries, which included hundreds of UO faculty, staff, and students. Also featured in the parade were more than twenty city and community groups.

Office of Government and Community Relations staff thanks the many UO faculty and staff who helped organize and participate in this event that brought together the campus and greater community. Special thanks to Tracy Bars, of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, and Andrea McFarlane from the Office of Finance and Administration; both were invaluable in assisting with event coordination.

## **COMPETES**

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called on our elected representatives to support the legislation.

America COMPETES reauthorizes funding for important federal scientific and engineering research organizations, and supports university research that drives scientific and technological advancement, and supports economic development in the private sector.