

# Public and Government Affairs Update

## Opportunities to meet UO presidential finalist Michael Gottfredson

Beginning tomorrow, Gottfredson and his wife Karol will be in Eugene to meet with the campus community and community leaders in meetings and public forums. You are invited to attend the following events.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 12

**Event:** Campus forum  
**Time:** 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
**Location:** 182 Lillis Hall

### FRIDAY, JUNE 15

**Event:** State Board of Higher Education votes on Michael Gottfredson's appointment; campus community encouraged to attend  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Ford Lecture Hall, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

### FRIDAY, JUNE 15

**Event:** Campus reception  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Ford Lecture Hall, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

### FEDERAL AFFAIRS

## U.S. Senator Ron Wyden hosts roundtable on student debt with UO students

On May 30, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and UO Interim President Bob Berdahl led a roundtable discussion with University of Oregon students on student debt and financial aid. They were joined by Laura Hinman, ASUO president, and Nick McCain, ASUO vice president. The meeting was held in Knight Library's Paulson Reading Room and also featured Jim Brooks, director of the UO Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships. During the event, fifteen students shared their stories and offered thoughts on how to improve financial aid for students. Several students highlighted their experiences with the [PathwayOregon](#) program, which ensures that academically qualified, lower-income Oregonians will have their University of Oregon tuition and fees paid for with a combination of federal, state, and university funds. Students also spoke about UO programs aimed at increasing financial literacy, includ-



U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and UO Interim President Bob Berdahl talk to students about student debt and financial aid

ing [Live like a Duck](#), which provides tools and tips to help students and their families make sound financial decisions while attending the University of Oregon. Senator Wyden highlighted his efforts to provide information on the value of college degrees through his [Student's Right to Know Before You Go Act](#).

Wyden is a 1974 graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law. Earlier in the day, he visited the Duck Store, where he congratulated general manager Jim Williams on his retirement.

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For more information or to invite government officials to a University of Oregon event, please contact Government and Community Relations at 541-346-5020 or at [gcr@uoregon.edu](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu). We can help!

### Public and Government Affairs Update staff

**Nate Stice** Policy Analyst, Government and Community Relations

**Karen Hyatt** Assistant Director, Government and Community Relations

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

## Springfield City Council tours Lokey Laboratories

On May 29, the City of Springfield City Council and Mayor Christine Lundberg held a work session on the University of Oregon campus to hear from university research officials and tour UO facilities. Participants heard from Kimberly Andrews Espy, vice president for research and innovation and dean of the Graduate School, who outlined the UO's mission as a comprehensive research institution. Chuck Williams, executive director of Technology Transfer Services, offered participants a picture of the UO's role in spurring innovation in the economy, providing several examples of local companies that have ties to the university. Chemistry professor Dave Johnson spoke about potential research-based partnership opportunities, and Chris Larson, director of graduate internship programs, spoke about the master's industrial internship program's 100 percent job placement rate. Ellen McWhirter, professor of counseling psychology also shared her research with Springfield-area Latino adolescents.

Following those presentations, John Donovan, director of the Microanalytical Facility, led participants on a tour of [UO's Lorry I. Lokey Laboratories](#).

**STATE RELATIONS**

## Governor testifies before Special Committee on University Governance, state board adopts recommendations

On May 22, Governor John Kitzhaber appeared before the Oregon Legislative Assembly's Special Committee on University Governance to express his support for the process established by the committee to examine institutional boards as well as

the concept of providing a pathway for institutional boards for universities that want them. According to the governor, the idea of local boards is consistent with the philosophy expressed in Senate Bills 909 and 242 and the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) that drives responsibility and accountability closer to service delivery. He added that the central question is not whether to establish local boards, but what powers should be vested in those boards and what mechanisms are needed to ensure they continue to serve public interests and fulfill their responsibilities to the people of Oregon. The governor outlined the areas of consideration he felt most important for the committee: tuition-setting, salary and benefits, access to state bonding for capital needs, ownership of existing buildings, purchasing and procurement rules, and employment practices and contracts. The committee also heard from

Bob Davies, Eastern Oregon University president, and Mark Weiss, Western Oregon University president.

The committee met again on June 7 to hear from representatives from the office of state treasurer Ted Wheeler and the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT). Laura Lockwood-McCall, debt management director for the Oregon State Treasury, discussed bonding issues relevant to university governance and Christopher Maples, OIT president, offered his view on institutional boards.

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education also considered the governance issue, ratifying the recommendations of its governance and policy committee on institutional governing boards. State board member Paul Kelly presented the recommendations at previous special committee hearings.

**STATE RELATIONS**

## Rudy Crew named as Oregon's first chief education officer

Governor John Kitzhaber announced the selection of former City of New York school chief Rudy Crew to fill the role of chief education officer. The position was created in 2011 as part of a comprehensive package of education reform initiatives aimed at aligning K–20 education in Oregon. The position has authority over K–12 education as well as Oregon's community colleges and public universities.

Crew's thirty-year career as an educator, principal, and superintendent includes serving as chancellor of New York City public schools and superintendent of

Miami-Dade County public schools. Since 2009, he has been a professor in the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. He also serves as president of the K–12 division of Revolution Prep, which uses technology to improve math instruction and graduation rates in urban school districts. A [fuller biography](#) of Rudy Crew is available on Governor Kitzhaber's site.

He will begin work in his new role on July 1.



Oregon chief education officer Rudy Crew

**FEDERAL AFFAIRS**

## Congress weighs options to prevent budget sequester and student loan interest rate hike

The potential impacts of a year-end budget sequester on U.S. defense spending are prompting some Republicans and Democrats to urge their respective leaders to reach some type of compromise on deficit reduction before the November elections. The sequester passed in the Budget Control Act of 2011 will require across-the-board cuts in discretionary spending if lawmakers do not reach an agreement before next January. Lawmakers in defense-heavy districts and states are feeling strong pressure from their communities—and threats to their own political futures—over the scheduled \$600 billion, ten-year cut to defense programs that would be part of the automatic \$1.2 trillion cut in spending approved as part of last year's budget deal.

The impact of sequestration on higher education is expected to have a large negative impact on domestic discretionary spending including student aid programs and research funding. While some believe it is unlikely that Congress in the end would allow such cuts to be implemented, the threat could have the effect intended by last year's budget agreement: to create pressure for compromise sooner rather than later. If so, Congress could resolve the sequester issue sometime after the November elections during the lame duck session. There remains a great deal of skepticism, however, that this will occur.

Congressional leaders also continued to debate options to prevent the doubling of the Stafford student loan interest rates

set to occur on July 1. The House and Senate have offered conflicting proposals to cover the \$6 billion cost of maintaining the current 3.4 percent interest rate for one year. The Senate's plan (S. 2343) would pay for the one-year extension by eliminating a tax break for certain corporations; the House plan, which has already passed the House (H.R. 4628), would do so by eliminating funding for a preventive health fund created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Oregon Democrat Peter DeFazio, MA '77, also offered a plan to prevent the doubling of Stafford loan interest rates and keep them permanently low. DeFazio would offset the costs of his proposed plan by increasing the tax rate by 1 percent on income more than \$380,000. This debate over Stafford loans comes as more Americans rely on loans to finance their education. A recent [Oregonian article](#) recounted that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York estimates that at least 37 million Americans owe \$870 billion for outstanding student loans, a figure that is growing and that exceeds the money owed for credit cards or auto loans.

**STATE RELATIONS**

## Oregon legislature meets for interim legislative days, hears revenue forecast, and passes funding for TrackTown 12 security

Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly met May 21–23 for regularly scheduled interim legislative days. In a joint session of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee and House Revenue Committee, the state economist released the quarterly economic and revenue forecast. The forecast projected a small

increase in state revenues of another \$106.5 million for the 2011–13 biennium. State economist Mark McMullen said he was encouraged by lower initial unemployment claims and said the "outlook is remarkably stable" for continued growth.

During the interim legislative days, the legislature's Emergency Board, the interim committee with budget allocation authority, approved a \$550,000 grant to the City of Eugene for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in track and field. The trials will run from June 21 to July 1, and will be held primarily at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field. The grant, which was secured with the help of Oregon senate president Peter Courtney (D-Salem) and Weighs and Means committee member state representative Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene), will help organizers add extra public safety measures for the event, which is projected to generate \$31 million in economic activity in the greater Eugene metro area.

More information about the U.S. Olympic Team Trials can be found at the event's [official website](#).



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