

# Public and Government Affairs Update



Interim President Bob Berdahl,  
University of Oregon



President Wim Wiewel,  
Portland State University

## STATE RELATIONS

### UO interim president Bob Berdahl testifies before Special Legislative Committee on University Governance

On May 10, UO interim president Bob Berdahl offered testimony to the Oregon Legislature's Special Legislative Committee on University Governance on the value of institutional boards to higher education in Oregon. The committee invited Berdahl and Portland State University president Wim Wiewel to offer their perspectives on institutional boards as a part of its work to make recommendations before the 2013 legislative session.

Berdahl began his remarks by sharing briefly information about his career in higher education. Before being called out of retirement to serve as the UO's interim chief executive, Berdahl served as the president of the Association of American Universities, an institution that represents sixty-one leading research universities in the U.S. and Canada. He

previously served as chancellor at the University of California at Berkeley, president of the University of Texas at Austin, and the vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Berdahl was a history professor at the UO from 1967 to 1986, the final five years serving as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In his testimony, Berdahl spoke of the need for greater university autonomy, flexibility, and accountability in the face of increased state budget cuts and increasing demand for a high-quality, affordable higher education. Berdahl outlined the powers an institutional board will need to be effective: the authority to hire, dismiss, and evaluate a university president; the ability to issue revenue bonds; and the ability to set tuition. Institutional boards, according to Berdahl, fit into the reforms envisioned through the creation of the Oregon Education Investment Board. His [full remarks](#) are available on the UO's state affairs webpage.

Following Berdahl, Wiewel [spoke](#) of the benefits an institutional board would provide PSU. According to Wiewel, an institutional board would give a president additional support through focused encouragement and accountability. It would further allow PSU to provide regional and tri-county stakeholders increased engagement with the university. Wiewel, like Berdahl, outlined the

powers he thought essential for a board to have: the power to hire, fire, and evaluate a university president; control over revenue and expenditures; and bonding authority. Both university presidents fielded questions after their remarks.

Paul Kelly, chair of the State Board of Higher Education's Governance and Policy Committee, also appeared to offer the state board's recommendation on institutional governing boards. A full-length [audio version](#) of the hearing can be found on the Oregon Legislature's website.

## STATE RELATIONS

### State Board of Higher Education, new Higher Education Coordinating Commission members appointed

Governor John Kitzhaber recently announced the names of seventy-six nominees for service on state boards and commissions including thirteen for the

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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!

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## HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION APPOINTEES

### **Jim Bernau**

Turner

### **Chris Brantley**

Salem

### **Neil Bryant**

Bend

### **Betty Duvall**

Portland

### **Charlene Gomez**

Lake Oswego

### **Nori Juba**

Bend

### **Al King '76**

Springfield

### **David Krumbein**

Salem

### **Charles Michael**

Eugene

### **Rosemary Powers**

La Grande

### **Jazmin Roque**

Ashland

### **Tony Van Vliet**

Corvallis

### **James Woods**

Portland

## STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION APPOINTEES

### **Orcilia Forbes, PhD '92**

Portland

### **James Middleton**

Bend

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Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and two for the State Board of Higher Education. The HECC, created in 2011 by SB 242, will coordinate post-secondary policy between the Oregon University System and community colleges in the state. SB 1538 clarified that the HECC reports to the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), which was also created by SB 242, and may give advice on budgetary and achievement compact matters to the OEIB. Additionally, the HECC was given authority to review and make recommendations on several issues, including student success, access, underserved populations, and transfer and articulation. The HECC has no authority, however, to direct colleges to implement any specific recommendations. The nominees to the HECC are listed at left.

The governor also named two new members to the State Board of Higher Education. Orcilia Forbes of Portland will join the board. Forbes retired from a long and distinguished career in education in 2004, having held top administrative posts at Oregon State University, Portland State University, and the University of New Mexico. She earned a PhD in educational policy and management in 1992 from the University of Oregon. The governor also appointed James Middleton, the president of Central Oregon Community College. Middleton also serves on the Oregon State Board of Education's Access and Affordability Working Group, the Rural Education Access Committee, and the Community College's Growth Management Committee. He holds a PhD in English language and literature from the University of Michigan.

The nominees were confirmed by the Oregon Senate on Monday, May 21.

## ELECTION UPDATE

### **UO alums fare well in May primary election**

On May 15, Oregon held its 2012 primary election. The balloting featured UO graduates competing for seats in races at the local, state, and federal level.

Locally, voters decided on nonpartisan positions at the city and council levels, with many candidates winning by more than 50 percent, allowing them to run unopposed in the fall. Eugene mayor Kitty Piercy, a strong UO supporter, was reelected to serve a third term in the position. Also in Eugene, Steve Mital, the university's director of sustainability, won a seat on the Eugene Water and Electric Board of Commissioners.

In Springfield, Christine Lundberg, who attended the University of Oregon, won election to her first full term as mayor of Springfield. Lundberg is a former city councilor appointed to replace mayor Sid Leiken when Leiken won a seat on the Lane County Board of Commissioners. At the county level, UO graduate Peter Sorensen '73, JD '82, won reelection to the Lane County Board of Commissioners. Current Eugene city councilor Pat Farr, who attended the University of Oregon, was also elected to the board of commissioners.

UO graduates ran and won in communities across the state. In Portland, Charlie Hales and UO graduate Jefferson Smith '96 advanced to a fall run-off in the Portland mayoral race. UO graduate Steve Novick '81 also won a seat on the Portland City Council, garnering over 74 percent of Tuesday's vote, enough to avoid a run-off in the fall.

Former UO student body president Jennifer Williamson '96 won the Democratic primary to run for the open seat in House District 36 in Portland. She will face

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Republican Bruce Neal in the fall. Former UO student body vice president Ben Unger also won his party's nomination to run for the Oregon House in District 29. He will face incumbent State Representative Katie Eyre (R-Hillsboro).

UO graduate and former Springfield mayor John Lively '74 received the Democratic nomination to run for the open seat being vacated by current State Representative Terry Beyer (D-Springfield). He will face current Springfield city councilor Joe Pishoneri. Current Umatilla county commissioner Bill Hansell '67 received the Republican nomination to run for the Oregon Senate in District 29, the seat being vacated by retiring State Senator David Nelson '64.

In statewide races, UO law graduate Ellen Rosenblum, JD '71, won the Democratic primary for attorney general of Oregon over Dwight Holton. No Republican candidates filed to run for the position.

UO graduate Congressman Peter DeFazio '77 won his Democratic primary election over Matthew Robinson, netting over 94 percent of the vote. DeFazio will face Republican challenger Art Robinson during the fall election. UO graduates and incumbent Oregon members of Congress, Republican Greg Walden '81 and Democrat Suzanne Bonamici, JD '83, also won their parties' nominations.

Full results from the primary election can found on the Oregon Secretary of State [website](#).



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