

Public and Government Affairs Update



UO Rose Bowl team members Josh Sanford, Dewitt Stuckey, Blake Thompson, and Ramsen Golpashin and UO athletics staff member Jeff Hawkins with State Representative Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene)

STATE RELATIONS

Ducks Rose Bowl team honored in Oregon House

On February 7, the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously passed HCR 204, a resolution that honors the Rose Bowl champion Ducks football team for its academic accomplishments, civic engagement, and success on the field. UO director of football operations Jeff Hawkins, four members of the UO football team (Ramsen Golpashin, Josh Sanford, Blake Thompson, and Dewitt Stuckey), and the Oregon Duck attended the vote as guests of the floor sponsor, State Representative Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene).

In a speech introducing the resolution, Nathanson praised the team for its work on and off the field, saying, “The football program has brought pride to Oregon. The community service and academic achievements of the individual players bring honor to the program and joy to the kids—and adults—who meet them. Oregonians are proud of their Ducks, and we’re happy to see some of them in the capitol with us today.”

The resolution now moves to the Senate for consideration and action by the Rules Committee.

To read the full text of HCR 204, [click here](#).

STATE RELATIONS

UO marks Oregon’s birthday with release of economic impact statement and interactive map

On February 14, to mark Oregon’s 153rd birthday, the University of Oregon released an economic impact report on the relationship between the state and the research university and launched a new [interactive map](#) that illustrates the UO’s impact on the state by county and legislative district.

The University of Oregon is a key driver of the Oregon economy with total impact of spending by the institution, its students and visitors estimated at \$2.12 billion, UO economist Tim Duy found in his study “[The Economic Impact of the University of Oregon: FY2010–11 Update](#).” The spending represents a 7.6

percent increase from last year’s total of \$1.97 billion. Direct spending by the UO, students, and visitors totaled more than \$1.14 billion before economic multiplier calculations. Highlights of the report’s findings can be found in [Powering the State’s Economy 2012](#).

The University also released its new [Oregon Impact Map](#). This tool is designed to provide the user quick and easy access to data about the university’s contribution by state legislative district and county. The interactive map provides information about the university profile through several different lenses. The data include the number of currently enrolled students, employees, and alumni, as well as financial aid awarded and dollars spent at local vendors. Some of this information is available in printable versions in the [UO at a Glance](#) and [Access and Affordability](#) fact sheets.

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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. We can help!

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FEDERAL RELATIONS

President Obama releases FY2013 budget proposal, focuses on education

President Barack Obama released his FY2013 budget proposal on February 13. The proposal calls for overall spending of \$3.8 trillion in FY2013. The president's budget had to fit into a discretionary spending limit of \$1.047 trillion set in the FY2012 budget agreement, the [Budget Control Act of 2011](#). According to the White House budget overview, the president's FY2013 budget places a strong priority on education and research, highlighting the role they play in a healthy economy.

The FY2013 budget would provide \$140.8 billion for research and development (R&D) overall, which it says would increase spending in nondefense R&D by five percent over FY2012. The total includes \$2.2 billion for "advanced manufacturing R&D," a 19 percent increase over FY2012, spread across the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Commerce. Fund-

ing for the National Institutes of Health would be frozen at the FY2012 level of \$30.7 billion, but the overview says proposed new grant management policies would allow for a 7 percent increase in new research grants. The budget for NASA would be cut by \$59 million to \$17.7 billion.

The budget proposes to sustain the maximum Pell Grant award at \$5,635, double the number of college work-study jobs over five years, and extend the 3.4 percent interest rate on subsidized Stafford student loans, which otherwise would rise to 6.8 percent on July 1. The president's budget also contains funds for several reform proposals he outlined in his January 20 State of the Union address. It proposes changing federal campus-based aid programs, such as Perkins Loans, to shift aid toward institutions that "keep their tuition and tuition increases low," enroll and graduate relatively high numbers of Pell-eligible students, and provide "good value." It also includes creating a \$1 billion "Race to the Top" program, modeled after the K-12 No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, to encourage states and institutions to implement reforms

focused on affordability and improved outcomes.

Omitted from the president's budget, however, are \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board cuts agreed to in the Budget Control Act, and unless Congress takes steps to make those cuts by January 2, 2013, funds will be "sequestered" equally from domestic discretionary and defense discretionary spending. Also notable is that the budget's revenue projections assume the expiration of Bush-era tax cuts for individuals earning more than \$250,000 annually.

To learn more about the president's FY2013 budget proposal, [click here](#). The introduction of the budget kicks off a long period of hearings and legislative action by both chambers of Congress to review and enact the individual appropriations bills that separately make up the federal budget.

The University of Oregon's statement on the president's budget may be found [here](#).

STATE RELATIONS

OEIB, legislature discuss university governance

On February 7, the [Oregon Education Investment Board](#) (OEIB) met to discuss reform proposals, including [SB 1581](#) and [SB 1538](#). Together these two pieces of legislation would allow the OEIB to enter into achievement compacts with educational institutions. Appearing before the panel, the governor's education advisor, Tim Nesbitt, outlined proposed changes that the Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development subsequently added to the bill. The panel also discussed the governor's ten-year budget plan and its role in the process.

The following day, the Committee on Education and Workforce Development amended and passed [SB 1581](#) and [SB 1538](#). The amendments added to SB 1581 contained language that would allow the OEIB to enter into achievement compacts

with individual universities. SB 1538, meanwhile, was amended to clarify the role that the newly created Higher Education Coordinating Commission will play in developing achievement compacts. It would also create a process for the commission to look at student issues and make recommendations to the OEIB and legislature. The committee passed both bills, which are now awaiting consideration by the legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee.

Another higher education reform bill, [HB 4061](#), received consideration by the Oregon House Committee on Higher Education on February 7. The bill would create a special committee on university governance tasked with investigating and recommending a way forward on local governing boards. The committee considered amendments to that bill that clarified its mission and set out a timeline for its work. After amending the bill and passing it out with a do-pass recommendation, the committee sent it to the Committee on Ways and Means.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

University of Oregon signs letter opposing elimination of PubMed Central

The University of Oregon signed onto a [letter](#) addressed to the members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee expressing opposition to HR 3699, the Research Works Act. This bill, introduced late last year by Representatives Darrell Issa (R-California) and Carolyn Maloney (D-New York) would prohibit federal agencies from adopting or continuing any programs providing public access to published results of federally supported research.

According to the letter, the Research Works Act would eliminate the National Institutes of Health's [PubMed Central](#), which provides free access to federally

funded biomedical research articles after an embargo period of up to twelve months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal and other federally supporting online publishing venues. The letter goes on to state that the bill also runs counter to the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act of 2007 reauthorization bill, which created an interagency committee to coordinate federal public-access policies across agencies and in collaboration with external stakeholders.

A broad community of universities, patient advocacy groups, library organizations, and others concerned about the bill signed on to the letter to express their concerns about the bill.

To learn more about the Research Works Act, [click here](#).

STATE RELATIONS

Revenue forecast released, legislative session passes halfway point

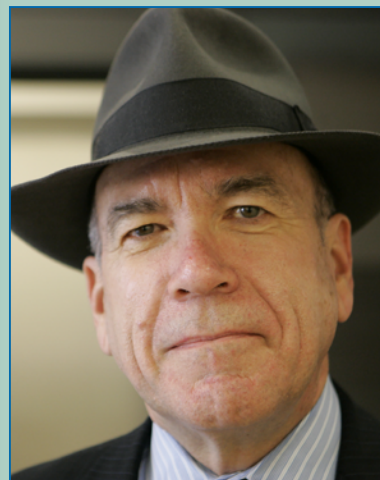
On February 8, the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis released the quarterly [Economic and Revenue Forecast](#) in a joint meeting of the Oregon Senate Finance and Revenue Committee and House Revenue Committee.

The forecast projects decreased revenues, down another \$35.1 million for the 2011–12 biennium since the last forecast in December 2011. But according to the Oregon State Economist Mark McMullen, the revenue forecast has stabilized and the expectation for the next two fiscal years is slow growth.

According to McMullen, the forecast follows stabilization in Oregon's economy, which is showing signs of recovery. The unemployment rate is falling, jobless claims are down, and companies are starting to hire new employees. The downgrade is within the margin of error

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

University leader recognized for local service



Former University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere received recognition from several organizations for his contributions to the community.

Lariviere was honored along with other community leaders at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce's annual awards banquet on January 20. The chamber awarded Lariviere a Cornerstone prize for his support of the chamber's mission.

Lariviere also received recognition at the Blacks in Government annual banquet on February 3 for his work to improve K–20 connections through an education partnership with local school districts and Lane Community College. Finally, Lariviere has been selected as the community service honoree for the Lane County NAACP's annual Freedom Fund dinner that will take place on February 25. To learn more about the event, [click here](#).

that the legislature's ways and means cochairs built into their budget agreement that was released on February 2. On February 16 Governor John Kitzhaber offered a counter-proposal that would limit layoffs by finding other areas to cut and using some of the state's reserve funds.

Meanwhile, the Oregon legislature has passed the [halfway point](#) of its first regular even-year session. The legislature was gavelled into session on February 1 with a target adjournment date of February 29. Several important legislative deadlines have passed, including a February 14 deadline for bills to receive a work session in their chamber of origin. Only bills that have already received a work session in a policy committee or that have been referred to either the House or Senate rules or revenue committee or the Joint Committee on Ways and Means are eligible to receive further consideration. Of the 270 bills that lawmakers filed at the beginning of the session, only a few remain active.

Beyond university governance bills, the legislature is still considering several pieces of legislation that are important to the university, including a bill that would make university employees mandatory reporters in sexual abuse cases ([HB 4057](#)) and a bill that concerns the State Board of Higher Education's work on employee benefits ([HB 4016](#)).

Several other bills that the university is watching have not progressed through the session, including a bill that would ban concealed weapons on college campuses, a proposal to create local govern-

ing boards at the UO and Portland State University, and a proposal that would abolish the Oregon University System and transfer its authority to the Oregon Education Investment Board.

Bills have until the February 23 to receive a committee work session.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

DeFazio, Blumenauer join colleagues opposing GRANT Act

Oregon Congressmen Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) and Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) joined nearly sixty other members of Congress in signing a [letter](#) that expresses serious concerns about the current version of HR 3433, the Grant Reform and New Transparency (GRANT) Act of 2011.

The GRANT Act, introduced by Congressman James Lankford (R-Oklahoma) and Congressman Darrel Issa (R-California), would require disclosure of grant applications.

The letter, drafted by Congressmen Rush Holt (D-New Jersey) and David Price (D-North Carolina), singles out provisions in HR 3433 that would require the Office of Management and Budget to publish grant applications on its website, despite the fact that grant proposals often include proprietary intellectual information related to the applicant's hypotheses, novel experimental methods, and preliminary research findings. A second provision the letter finds troubling would compromise the anonymity of the peer review process. As written, the provision would

allow identification of peer reviewers at the individual grant level in areas of research in which there are small numbers of scientists and engineers.

In addition to the Holt-Price letter, Representatives Steve King (R-Iowa) and Tom Latham (R-Iowa) sent a [letter](#) to Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-California) that also raises concerns about the provision of the bill that would require the publication of complete winning grant proposals.

The University of Oregon also joined other organizations in signing a letter circulated by the Coalition for National Science Funding raising concerns about HR 3433.

To learn more about the GRANT Act, [click here](#).



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