

Public and Government Affairs Update

STATE RELATIONS

Special Legislative Committee on University Governance begins work

The newly formed Special Legislative Committee on University Governance began its work on April 12. The committee was created during the 2012 session of the Oregon Legislature and is tasked with creating a legislative framework for institutional boards at universities in the Oregon University System (OUS) that seek such boards and are prepared for institutional governance. Voting members of the committee include state senators Mark Hass (D-Beaverton), Frank Morse (R-Albany), Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), and Fred Girod (R-Stayton), as well as state representatives Mark Johnson (R-Hood River), Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), Sherrie Sprenger (R-Scio), and Val Hoyle (D-West Eugene, Junction City). HB 4061 requires the panel to include two members of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) to serve in a nonvoting capacity. Governor John Kitzhaber selected OEIB members Matt Donegan (who also serves as the president of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education) and Kay Toran for those positions.

During its first meeting, the committee selected Senator Hass and Representatives Dembrow and Johnson to serve as co-chairs of the committee, and further outlined a plan to meet every other week. The committee received background on HB 4061 and university governance from Dana Richardson, legislative director for Oregon Senate president Peter Courtney. The group decided to focus its initial meetings on examining the current state of university governance and on developing a fuller picture of how the recent reforms encapsulated in SB 909 and SB 242 have impacted the system of

governance in the state. SB 909 and SB 242 passed during the 2011 legislative session, created the OEIB, and transformed the Oregon University System from a state agency to a public university system.

In a second meeting on April 26, the committee heard from Paul Kelly, the chair of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education's committee on governance and policy, regarding the state board's work to develop a position on institutional governing boards. They also heard from Oregon Student Association legislative director Emma Kallaway and OUS chancellor George Pernsteiner on the subject of tuition setting.

The committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, May 10. The Oregon Legislature will live stream online all of the committee meetings. UO interim president Bob Berdahl has been invited to testify at the May 10 hearing along with Portland State University president Wim Wiewel.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

UO senior wins first Officer Chris Kilcullen Memorial Scholarship

On April 21, University of Oregon senior Anne Mansfield was named as one of two recipients of the first Officer Chris Kilcullen Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is named for Eugene Police department officer and UO alumnus Chris Kilcullen, who was shot and killed during a traffic stop on Highway 126 last year. The Kilcullen family, with the help of friends, put a scholarship fund in place to annually award scholarships to two students who exemplify the traits of Kilcullen—passion for the community and for public service.



SARA DEANNE RANKIN OF FIVE WATERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Kilcullen Memorial Scholarship winner Anne Mansfield with (left to right) scholarship organizer Lindsay Lowen, UO acting senior vice president and provost Lorraine Davis, and Kristie Kilcullen

Mansfield and Kristen DeHaven, a Northwest Christian University junior, were chosen as the first two recipients out of a pool of seventy-five applicants. Mansfield, an anthropology major from Springfield, plans to use the \$5,000 she was given to help pay for the UO Teach

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

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Students participating in the Day of Service paint fire hydrants.

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program, a one-year graduate licensure program that she plans to start next fall. After finishing the UO Teach program, she hopes to work at schools with high-risk students.

The award was funded through donations from individuals and businesses, including UO football team head coach Chip Kelly, who spoke at the event. Acting senior vice president and provost Lorraine Davis also represented the University of Oregon at the award ceremony. Learn more about the Officer Chris Killcullen Memorial Scholarship [here](#).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

UO students, faculty, and staff participate in Day of Service

On April 21, more than fifty UO students, staff members and university neighbors participated in “Takin’ It to the Streets: UO Student Day of Service in Campus

Neighborhoods.” This annual effort is a collaboration of the Holden Leadership Center’s Service Learning Program, the UO Student Alumni Association, the Office of the Dean of Students, UO Government and Community Relations, and neighborhood leaders.

Participants completed projects in four campus neighborhoods. In the West University neighborhood, participants picked up five cubic yards of litter from throughout the neighborhood. In the South University neighborhood, students worked with neighborhood leaders to touch up fire hydrants previously painted with decorative designs by neighbors. In the Harlow neighborhood, students cleaned playground equipment and weeded tree wells and paths at Marche Chase Park, and in the Fairmount neighborhood, participants spread bark on forest paths and removed invasive species at Hendricks Park.

The four projects were offered as part of the larger Earth Week service event headed by the Service Learning Program.

Remember to vote before Tuesday, May 15!

Tuesday, May 15 is the Oregon primary election. Please remember all ballots must be received by your county elections office by 8:00 p.m. on May 15, 2012. Postmarks do not count. The Oregon Secretary of State provides an [interactive map](#) to help you find the closest ballot drop box.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Berdahl, Espy meet with Oregon delegation in D.C.

University of Oregon interim president Robert M. Berdahl and Kimberly Andrews Espy, UO vice president for research and innovation and dean of the graduate school, traveled to Washington, D.C., the week of April 16 to discuss UO priorities with members of the Oregon delegation and agency officials and to ad-

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vocate for research and student aid. Over several days Berdahl and Espy met with Oregon Senators Ron Wyden (D) and Jeff Merkley (D), and Oregon Representatives Peter DeFazio (D), Greg Walden (R), Earl Blumenauer (D), Kurt Schrader (D), and Suzanne Bonamici (D).

During these visits, Berdahl thanked delegation members for their ongoing support of the university and outlined the University of Oregon's priorities for the FY2013 budget. The president reminded the delegation of the importance of their support for research and student aid to Oregonians despite the difficult budget environment in Washington, D.C. In addition, they highlighted the work of the University of Oregon to provide a high-quality, affordable education to Oregon students through programs such as [PathwayOregon](#), which leverages the federal Pell Grant program and ensures that academically qualified, lower-income Oregonians will have their University of Oregon tuition and fees paid. Berdahl and Espy also profiled University of Oregon research activities that are funded by key federal research agencies like the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education. Lawmakers and staff members received a copy of the university's [federal legislative priorities document](#), which offers key facts about the university and outlines its budget and policy requests.

Berdahl and Espy participated in a reception held in the Rayburn House Office Building hosted by the UO Alumni Association. More than 150 D.C.-area graduates attended including UO alumni DeFazio, Walden, and Bonamici.



(Left to right) Professor Jim Hutchison (chemistry), Oregon Environmental Council Executive Director Andrea Durbin, and State Representative Tobias Read (D-Beaverton) watch as Governor John Kitzhaber signs the green chemistry executive order.

STATE RELATIONS

Oregon governor's green chemistry initiative draws praise from UO leadership

University of Oregon leadership praised the launch of Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber's Green Chemistry Innovation Initiative on April 27 at an event held at the university's White Stag Block in Portland. The initiative initially aims to build awareness in both state agencies and the Oregon business community about the benefits of green chemistry, and, then, in stages, move forward to encourage new incentives through legislative proposals, implement state purchasing and procurement guidelines in preference of green chemistry-based products, and refine the state's strategies to use safer alternatives to toxic chemicals.

"Governor Kitzhaber's leadership in advancing green chemistry and promoting its application by the state's agencies is an important step for Oregon," said UO chemist and green chemistry pioneer Jim Hutchison at Portland's signing

event. "The executive order will catalyze the development, production, and use of greener products and leverage our nation-leading strengths within the state's industrial sector and its universities."

Hutchison, who holds the Lokey-Harrington Chair in Chemistry, noted in his remarks that numerous cutting-edge programs at the UO in green chemistry research, innovation and education are available and willing to help state agencies as they set out to improve lives and build a stronger economy through green chemistry. UO interim president Bob Berdahl and Kimberly Andrews Espy, UO vice president for research and innovation and dean of the graduate school, also praised the new initiative.

The nation's first courses devoted to green chemistry began at the UO more than fifteen years ago. To support that effort, Hutchison teamed with chemistry department colleague Kenneth Doxsee, now associate vice provost for academic affairs, to write the first textbook for the field, *Green Organic Chemistry: Tools, Strategies and Laboratory Experiments*,

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which was published in 2003. In 2005, Julie Haack, assistant head of the UO Department of Chemistry, launched an open-source interactive database of education materials focused on green chemistry.

Oregon also is well poised to be the nation's leader in green chemistry because of the National Science Foundation's selection last fall of the UO and Oregon State University as home of the Center for Sustainable Materials Chemistry, said Espy.

The center—led by OSU chemist Douglas Keszler, an adjunct professor at the UO, and UO chemists Dave Johnson and Darren Johnson—is a collaboration of eight institutions using green chemistry in the synthesis and fabrication of compounds, thin films, and composite materials. Dave Johnson heads the center's education and outreach mission to recruit and prepare students who will advance tomorrow's technologies through the use of green chemistry.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Sustainable Cities Initiative leaders meet with Oregon delegation

During a recent trip to Washington, D.C., UO professors and [Sustainable Cities Initiative](#) faculty members Marc Schlossberg and Nico Larco met with U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) and top staff members to Congressmen Peter DeFazio and Earl Blumenauer. Schlossberg and Larco provided an update to lawmakers and their staff members on the work of SCI in promoting sustainability in Oregon communities. Schlossberg, who also serves as an associate director of the [National Institute on Transportation and Communities \(NITC\)](#)—formerly Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC)—reminded lawmakers and their staffs about the importance of transportation research funding as the U.S. House



Associate Professors Nico Larco (left) and Marc Schlossberg (right) meet with U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley in his Washington, D.C., office.

and Senate continue to struggle to pass a Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill. NITC is a federally funded partnership between Portland State University, the University of Oregon, the Oregon Institute of Technology, and the University of Utah that stimulates and conducts research on surface transportation, educates current and future transportation leaders and encourages the real-world use of research results.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Congressional committees consider funding bills

The U.S. [House](#) and [Senate](#) Appropriations Committees have begun the task of considering FY2013 funding bills. The House and Senate panels are using spending caps that fall below FY2012 discretionary spending levels and that are more than \$19 billion apart. The Senate is using the discretionary spending total for FY2013 that was approved last August as part of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA), which is \$4 billion below the FY2012 level. The House, meanwhile, passed a budget resolution that reduces nondefense discretionary spending by \$27 billion below the level outlined in the BCA.

The Senate committee approved its allocations for FY2013 discretionary spending among its twelve subcommittees on April 19. The panel based its so-called “302(b)” allocations on the BCA-approved discretionary spending total of \$1.047 trillion. The committee allocation to the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee is \$157.7 billion, an increase of \$1.4 billion over the FY2012 enacted level; the Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee received \$51.86 billion, which is \$1 billion below the FY2012 enacted level. The panel also approved a funding bill for NASA and the National Science Foundation (NSF) that would increase funding levels by \$240 billion over FY2012 levels.

In the House, the FY2013 funding bill, passed by the subcommittee on April 19, includes \$7.3 billion for NSF, which the committee statement says is \$299 million above the FY2012 level and \$41 million below the president's request.

The House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee also approved a bill on April 18 that would fund the Department of Energy Office of Science at \$4.8 billion, which is \$64 million below the final enacted FY2012 level and \$168 mil-

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lion below the administration's FY2013 request. The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) would receive \$200 million in the House bill, which is \$75 million below FY12 and \$150 below the president's FY13 request.

The University of Oregon's budget priorities are outlined in the UO's [federal legislative priorities document](#).

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Fix for Stafford student loan interest rate debated in Washington, D.C.

With the Stafford student loan interest rate set to double on July 1, the administration and U.S. Congress continue to debate how to pay the estimated \$6 billion annual cost of postponement to avoid the increase.

On April 27, the U.S. House approved the Republican leadership's bill (H.R. 4628) to pay for the postponement using an offset from the health care fund created under the Affordable Care Act that covers prevention and public health. House Democrats had proposed to cover the cost of postponement by eliminating certain tax breaks for the oil and gas industry. Meanwhile, on May 8, the U.S. Senate will consider the Democratic leadership's bill, which would cover the costs by ending a tax break for S corporations. Senate Republicans support the House Republican plan.

Despite the harsh rhetoric—including the White House [announcement](#) that President Obama would veto the House bill—there were some hints of compromise. Senate Democratic and Republican leaders are meeting to discuss offsets that might be acceptable to both sides.

The higher education community sent a [letter](#) to all House members on April 24 expressing strong support for maintain-

ing the current 3.4 percent interest rate on subsidized Stafford loans. The associations took no position on the offset for the measure, other than to oppose having it taken from other education programs.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

UO joins others institutions in commenting on proposed indirect cost rule

The University of Oregon joined other higher education institutions, the Association of American Universities (AAU), and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) in submitting a response to a proposed rule that governs the use of federal grant money to cover indirect costs. The Advanced Notice of Proposed Guidance (ANPG) on "Reform of Federal Policies Relating to Grants and Cooperative Agreements; Cost Principles and Administrative Requirements (Including Single Audit Act)" that appeared in the *Federal Register* on February 28, 2012 ([OMB-2012-0002](#)) proposes to modify cost principles and administrative requirements for universities under OMB Circular A-21, and to consolidate several circulars, including A-21, into a single circular.

In the UO's letter, Kimberly Andrews Espy, vice president for research and innovation and dean of the graduate school, expressed support for accountability and transparency in the administration of federal research dollars, but raised concerns about the process that was used to create the proposed revisions to the OMB Circular A-21 and the impact of the provisions of proposed rule on research activities at the University of Oregon. The ANPG proposes cutting the amount of indirect cost reimbursement allowed for federal research grants.

The [proposed rule](#) can be found on the Government Printing Office's web page.



U.S. Senator Ron Wyden talks to UO law students.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Wyden lectures on Internet policy at law school

Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon visited the UO campus on April 11 to attend a meeting of the board of directors of the university's Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics. While on campus, Wyden, who is a 1974 graduate of the UO law school and a member of the Morse Center's board, offered a lecture to law students on technology and Internet policy. Wyden is considered a pioneer in the field of Internet law most recently for his work in opposing the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) (in the House) and the PROTECT IP Act (PIPA). Last month, the Consumer Electronics Association recognized Senator Wyden as one of its 2012 Digital Patriots.



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