



# Public and Government Affairs Update



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The Legislative Supplemental Session in Salem is drawing to a close but there is still a lot of work to be done in this final week of the session. Legislators are committed to completing their business in February and not continuing into March, but it has required late nights and weekend work. This is the time of a legislative session when important decisions are compressed into a very tight timeframe.



President Lariviere has been actively engaged in the legislative process during the session having met with a number of legislators in Salem regarding issues of interest to the university. A variety of bills have been followed closely by the University of Oregon. A brief summary of some of those bills appears below.

**SB 1009** – Legislation to prohibit the use of plastic bags as checkout bags in retail outlets – which would impact businesses like the UO Duck Stores and university museum gift shops – appears to have stalled in committee and is not likely to be approved during the supplemental session.

**SB 5563** – This Senate bill includes the capital construction projects for the Oregon University System, including the \$75 million in Article XI-F(1) bonds for the University of Oregon’s east campus residence hall project. The Joint Ways and Means Committee held a series of work sessions last week to hear agency requests for inclusion in the bill. The bill

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## UO’s Riverfront Research Park conditional use permit good until 2012

In Fall 2009, the University of Oregon applied to the City of Eugene for a 3-year extension to its 20-year Riverfront Research Park conditional use permit (CUP), which many people believed expired on October 10, 2009. The city’s planning director approved the 3-year extension. The decision was appealed by a new group called “Connecting Eugene.” On January 20, hearing official Jeffrey Litwak conducted a public hearing on the appeal for the City of Eugene.

On Friday, Litwak released his decision on the appeal, ruling that the original 20-year CUP did not expire in 2009 and is still in effect until October 10, 2012. Alternatively, even if the original CUP had expired on October 10, 2009, Litwak concluded that the City of Eugene’s planning director properly applied city code in approving an extension of time to October 10, 2012. The appellant’s arguments and other testimony in opposition did not present evidence or argument demonstrating that the application should not be approved. The appellant may appeal the decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

The full decision can be found online [here](#).

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*For more information about this newsletter, please contact Eric Stillwell in Government and Community Relations at (541) 346-5381 or email to [ees@uoregon.edu](mailto:ees@uoregon.edu). If you are interested in inviting government officials to a UO event, please contact us first. We can help! Give us a call or send an email to [gcr@uoregon.edu](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu).*

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## The Reverend Jesse Jackson visits University of Oregon



Jackson speaks to full house at EMU ballroom.



Jackson interacts with Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and UO President Richard Lariviere.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson—political activist and former presidential candidate—was on campus last Monday for meetings with student leaders and community members. On Tuesday he spoke to an overflow crowd at the EMU ballroom on topics related to social justice.

*Photos by Jake Swantko, courtesy of the Holden Leadership Center*

### FEDERAL AFFAIRS

## More analysis of Obama Administration budget proposal now available

Higher education advocates were pleased that the President’s FY11 budget included significant increases for research and education programs in several agencies, despite his proposed freeze of domestic discretionary spending.

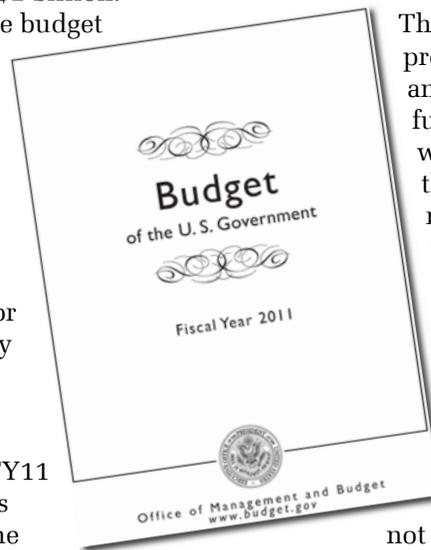
Among the standouts in the President’s budget for research are the proposed \$1 billion, or 3.2 percent, increase for the National Institutes of Health, the largest dollar and percentage increase proposed by a President in eight years, and the proposed eight-percent increase for the National Science Foundation.

Funding for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science would increase by about four percent to more than \$5 billion, while support for NASA’s science portfolio would increase by 11 percent to more than \$4 billion.

Department of Defense basic research would increase by nearly seven percent to \$2 billion. Unfortunately, the budget also proposes a \$7.2 million cut in national programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities, which would reduce funding for those programs by more than five percent.

The President’s FY11 budget also favors student aid. As the Administration proposed last year, Pell Grants would become a full entitlement program, available to as many as one million additional students. The maximum award would increase by \$160 to \$5,710,

followed by regular annual increases thereafter.



The White House proposes funding this and other education funding increases with savings from the still-pending reconciliation bill, which would eliminate federally subsidized private student loans and move all new loans into the direct federal loan program.

The Senate has not acted on the legislation (H.R. 3221) approved by the House last year, and it is unclear whether it will.

More details about the Administration’s FY11 budget proposals are available online [here](#).



## Senate Confirms Jill Eiland to State Board of Higher Education



Governor Kulongoski's appointment of Jill Eiland to serve on the State Board of Higher Education was confirmed last Monday by the Oregon State Senate. Eiland is the Northwest Region corporate affairs manager at Intel Corporation. Her term on the Board will begin on March 1, 2010 and continue through June 30, 2013, at which time she will be eligible for re-appointment. She is replacing Board member Tony van Vliet of Corvallis, who served on the Board from 2004 to early 2010.

In her role as corporate affairs manager for Oregon, Washington and Colorado, Jill Eiland leads media, government, and community relations for Intel, as well as heading up its education outreach team and its philanthropic efforts at the company's largest site. She is the national sponsor of the Intel Community Giving Campaign which raises millions for the United Way in the Northwest and nationally. Eiland also chairs the America Government Affairs Council at Intel.

Prior to joining Intel in 2006, Eiland held positions with Knowledge Learning Corporation, KinderCare Learning Centers, The Rockey Company, Portland General Electric, was a principal of Edwards Associates in Washington, D.C., and served on the staffs of former U.S. Senator Bob Packwood (R-Oregon) and the U.S. Senate Budget Committee.

A native Oregonian, Eiland is committed to serving the state's many communities as a member of the Portland Business Alliance, the Oregon Business Association Board, the TechAmerica Oregon Council Executive Committee, the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette Board, the Oregon Workforce Investment Board, the Oregon Global Warming Commission, the Oregon State University Business Dean's Circle of Excellence, and the Oregon Higher Education Alliance. She has also served as chair of Portland Community College's Foundation Board, and volunteers for many local political campaigns.

Eiland earned a B.A. in Business from Oregon State University and an M.B.A. from George Washington University. She and her three children live in Portland.

## Headed to Washington or Salem?

The University of Oregon is registered under the federal Lobbying Disclosure Act as an organization that employs in-house lobbyists. The UO is required by law to file: (a) quarterly "lobbying activities" reports; and (b) semi-annual "reports of certain contributions." State law also addresses the use of public resources to lobby or campaign for measures or candidates. Links at <http://gcr.uoregon.edu> provide detailed information about these requirements.

Communication on behalf of the University of Oregon with state or federal officials should be coordinated with the Office of Government and Community Relations.

University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere heads to Washington, D.C. in early March to meet with the Oregon congressional delegation. Events include a reception with UO alumni. For more information, see <http://www.uoalumni.com>.

## Legislative update

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will likely be passed out of committee early this week.

**HJR 101** – This House joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution relating to bonded indebtedness for institutions of higher education, which is supported by the university. The House unanimously approved HJR 101 last Tuesday evening. Rep. Harker (D-Beaverton) carried the bill. There was no further discussion. On Thursday, it was unanimously approved by the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee and moved to the full Senate for a final vote. The bill is likely to pass its last legislature hurdle today, at which point it will be placed on the May ballot for a statewide vote.

**SJR 41** - The Senate voted 24-6 last Wednesday morning to send a referral to voters asking them to approve a constitutional amendment that would allow annual sessions of the legislature. If approved by voters, the Legislature would meet for up to 135 days in odd-numbered years and 45 days in even-numbered years, and for a total of 180 days over a two year period. The change to annual sessions is not expected to incur considerable expense because

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**Legislative update**

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the total days spent in session over the two year period would be less than in recent history. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

**SJR 48** – This Senate joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to allow a person serving as a judge to be employed by the State Board of Higher Education, board of education of a community college district or school board for purpose of teaching. This bill would allow a sitting judge to be paid for teaching a class at the School of Law, for example, which is currently prohibited by law. The Senate Education and General Government committee made amendments to the bill. The bill was referred to the Senate Rules Committee and then to Joint Ways and Means Committee.

**SJR 50** – This Senate joint resolution would request that the Superintendent of Public Instruction encourage Chinese language study in Oregon schools. The text of the resolution notes that the UO and PSU have been designated Confucius Institutes and are prepared to assist interested Oregon public schools in applying for and establishing Confucius classrooms on all interested elementary and secondary school campuses. The bill was carried by Senator Chris Edwards (D-Eugene) and was unanimously approved by the full Senate. The resolution has now moved to the House where the Education Committee has recommended the bill be adopted with amendments.

STATE RELATIONS

**New formula put in place for next year’s Oregon Opportunity Grants**

The State of Oregon is changing the way it awards the Oregon Opportunity Grant, a financial aid program that serves tens of thousands of students each year.

A surge in college enrollment during the past two years has resulted in the state promising \$10 million more in aid than was allocated for grants through the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC). In turn, OSAC was forced to reduce the level of grants to thousands of full-time students in order to make up the shortfall.

The commission has asked the Legislature for an extra \$19.7 million to meet demand for the grants next year and to restore this year’s cuts.

The Legislature’s Joint Ways and Means Committee last week released a budget that would provide and additional \$9.7 million to OSAC, but falls short of the full request. Legislators are still wrestling with the state’s budget and an overall revenue shortfall of more than \$180 million.

To avoid another year in which the state promises more grants than it can pay for, OSAC is changing the formula by which it approves grants. The result will be earlier deadlines, more initial denials and more students left on waiting lists.

During this academic year, nearly 161,000 Oregonians met the basic qualifications for an opportunity grant and 92,000 applications were received before the deadline. This year OSAC awarded 43,000 grants. The grants top out at \$2,675 for university students and \$2,600 for community college students. Next year the grants will be \$1,950 and \$1,800 respectively. At the University of Oregon, 2,592 students are receiving state grants.

Under the new formula, community college students would get 48 percent of available grants, 41 percent for public university students and 11 percent for private university students.

On Friday, February 12, the Oregon Student Association held a rally on the steps of the State Capitol in support of OSAC’s request for additional Oregon Opportunity Grant funding.

**At your service**

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