



Public and Government Affairs Update



September 2010

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State Relations

Legislative workgroup to consider New Partnership proposal

This Friday, October 1, UO President Richard Lariviere will present remarks to the Oregon Higher Education Workgroup, making the case for the New Partnership as the kind of new thinking that will help the university carry out its public mission to deliver high quality, affordable education in the 21st Century.

The New Partnership is an initiative to change the university's relationship with the state through the establishment of new governance and accountability measures and the creation of a public endowment.

The Workgroup is Co-Chaired by Senator Mark Hass (D-Washington County), and Representative Tobias Read (D- Beaverton). Other members of the committee are Sen. Chris Edwards (D-Eugene), Sen. Frank Morse (R-Albany), Sen. David Nelson (R-Pendleton), Rep. Sara Gelsler (D-Corvallis), Rep. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), Rep. Betty Komp (D -Woodburn), Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner), and Rep. Sherrie Sprenger (R-Scio).

The meeting will be held at 8:30am in the College Center Building, conference rooms A and B at the Sylvania Campus of Portland Community College, 12000 SW 49th Ave., in Portland. President Lariviere's presentation is the first on the meeting agenda.

Community Relations

University and city leaders greet off-campus students

The second annual Community Welcome walk was held Tuesday, September 28. During the event 75 leaders, including President Richard Lariviere, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, ASUO president Amelie Rousseau, City Councilor Alan Zelenka, City

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State Relations

Lariviere comments on debt capacity limitations

Last week Oregon Treasurer Ted Wheeler announced that the state's general fund debt capacity will be reduced because of the recession.

University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere issued a statement noting that "we know that the announcement has implications for the university's proposal to create a public university endowment. Our efforts are affirmed, not set back, by this announcement."

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For more information about this newsletter, please contact Jared Mason-Gere at (541) 346-5381 or jaredm@uoregon.edu If you are interested in inviting government officials to a UO event, please contact us first at 346-5020 or gcr@uoregon.edu. We can help!

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Federal Relations

Oberstar, DeFazio transit UO, meet researchers

Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN), chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, met with community and university leaders at the John E. Jaqua Center for Student Athletes in early September. The discussion focused on Lane Transit District’s bus rapid transit network and plans to establish a “multiway boulevard” on Franklin Boulevard as the EmX lines pass UO.

The congressmen then toured the Interstate 5/ Willamette River bridge construction site. At the site, they also met with UO professors Marc Schlossberg and Nico Larco, co-directors of UO’s Sustainable Cities Initiative. The faculty members told DeFazio and Oberstar about the program’s focus last year on the city of Gresham, where nearly 100,000 hours of student work from 21 courses and five academic departments was applied to projects throughout that city. They discussed plans for the city of Salem as the Sustainable Cities partner for the 2010-11 academic year, and the work to be done by more than 600 students and 25 faculty members from 25 UO courses.

The Sustainable Cities Initiative has important implications for transportation policy, now under
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Federal Relations

Senate sets aside funds for nanoscience research

The US Senate passed an appropriations bill containing funds for nanoscience research conducted under the auspices of the Oregon Nanosciences and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI). The University of Oregon is a member of ONAMI.

The bill contains \$9 million for ONAMI projects including research related to greener, safer nanotechnology. Differences between the House and Senate Defense Department appropriations bills must now be reconciled by a conference commit

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State Relations

Presidents’ Invitational attracts leaders from across the state

On September 18, President Lariviere joined with Portland State University president Wim Wiewel to host the annual Presidents’ Invitational football game and tailgate. More than 150 state elected officials, congressional staff, mayors, representatives from Oregon’s recognized Indian tribes, and county leaders from around the state joined university advocates and leadership from UO and PSU to enjoy this long time fall tradition.



Guests braved the rain to enjoy tailgate fare and beverages provided by University Catering and inspiring pre-game speeches from the Presidents Lariviere and Wiewel and Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy before heading to Autzen Stadium for the Ducks’ rout of the

Vikings.

Before heading to the football game, industry leaders and a variety of state and local dignitaries came to campus as the UO showed off another point of pride- our industrial internships, science facilities, and high tech extension service. At the



2010 Science Odyssey, hosted by the Material Science Institute, current students, professors, alums, and a variety of community leaders

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Federal Relations

Senator Merkley visits Oregon Institute of Marine Biology



U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) made an early morning visit to the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB) on Labor Day. Merkley spent an hour touring the facility with Craig Young, director of the program, as part of a three-day swing on Oregon’s south coast.

OIMB’s connections to federal policy range from its physical location adjacent to Coast Guard facilities and a federally recognized tribe to resident faculty’s sponsored research activities to a well-established GK-12 program, funded by the National Science Foundation. The GK-12 program provides graduate students with financial support for their studies while giving area schools access to specialized science education.

Merkley toured the university’s laboratories, classrooms, library and meeting spaces. Young also showed Merkley the site of the under construction visitor facility and area where the state, federal agencies and OIMB are planning a shared facility as part of the Oregon Solutions program. Merkley also viewed the new property acquisition that will allow OIMB to expand its facilities.

Located in Charleston, OIMB is the university’s oldest research institute and has been providing teaching and research opportunities on the Oregon coast since 1924. No other program in Oregon offers undergraduates the opportunity to study on a residential campus on Oregon’s coast.

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Federal Relations

Senate delays vote on DOD authorization, DREAM Act

Senate Democratic leaders fell short of the 60 votes needed to proceed to consideration of the defense authorization bill (S. 3454), delaying a final vote on the bill until after the November election. Along with postponing Democratic hope of repealing the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, the vote also pushed off consideration of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, legislation. The DREAM Act proposes a path to citizenship for undocumented children brought to the U.S. by their parents. The DREAM Act proposes granting permanent residency to undocumented minors raised in the United States who complete some time in college or in the armed forces. Democrats had planned to offer the bill as an amendment during floor consideration.

A group of 26 higher education associations, including AAU, sent a letter to Senate leaders on September 17 urging them to approve the DREAM Act this year.



Spearheaded by the American Council on Education, the [letter](#) asks Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to pass the bill as a means of helping undocumented young people who came to this country because of the actions of their parents to chart a path toward citizenship. Among other provisions, the bill would return to the states the ability, but not the obligation, to decide whether to extend in-state tuition to undocumented students. The letter notes, “The DREAM Act is an important tool for achieving our national goal of returning the United States to world leadership in higher education attainment. It has been estimated that 65,000 DREAM-eligible students graduate from American high schools each year.”

The University of Oregon supports passage of the DREAM Act.



Who's where in Washington, D.C., Salem

Gordon Lafer, associate professor at the Labor Education and Research Center, is spending a year and a half in Washington, D.C. as senior labor policy advisor for the U.S. House of Representatives' Education and Labor Committee, chaired by Congressman George Miller (D-CA).

During his time in Washington, D.C., Lafer has played a central role in crafting job creation strategies to address the unemployment crisis, in working to protect workers' rights in international trade treaties, and in responding to requests for Congressional assistance for specific industries and groups of employees.

Lafer was involved in encouraging a contract settlement for the 6,000 postdoctoral scholars in the University of California system. He also played a key role in recently passed legislation that provided \$10 billion to save K-12 teachers jobs across the country, including 1,600 jobs in Oregon.

Governor Ted Kulongoski appointed **Betsy Boyd**, Associate Vice President for Public and Government Affairs, to a newly formed Transportation Electrification Executive Council. Among its charges, the Council will coordinate state electric vehicle strategy, serve as point of contact for electric vehicle companies hoping to invest in Oregon, and support development of infrastructure to support electric vehicle deployment.

Boyd joins a variety of top officials from the public and private sectors, including Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen; Duncan Wyse, head of the Oregon Business Council; and Pat Egan, Vice President at Pacific Power, and formerly the Governor's Chief of staff.

Merkley visits OIMB

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Its presence on Coos Head gives students and researchers easy access to the South Slough (including the estuary facility operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), Charleston Harbor, and the Pacific ocean. OIMB even boasts its own beachfront facilities.

Community Relations

President Lariviere condemns campus area disturbance

University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere issued a statement over the weekend, condemning the actions of a group of UO students that caused a large disturbance in the neighborhood west of the university, saying he was "deeply disappointed" by their behavior.

Lariviere thanked law enforcement officers for responding and praised their quick action and professionalism, saying it "led to a quick resolution of the incident."

The University works hard to be a strong partner with the City of Eugene and area residents in creating a healthy and vibrant community, and has undergone intensive efforts to build relationships with long-term campus neighbors.

The University had previously scheduled its second annual Community Welcome event on Tuesday evening, September 28 as an opportunity to inform students about how to be good neighbors. President Lariviere, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, and other city and university leaders participated in door-to-door visits and a town hall to discuss neighborhood concerns.

Presidents' Invitational

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celebrated the University's partnership with Oregon's high tech industry.

State Representatives Paul Holvey and Nancy Nathanson made remarks highlighting the importance of efforts to train skilled workers for the 21st century economy and learned about a program with a 100% job placement record and intern placements that yield salaries above the states' median income.

Nanoscience research

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before final congressional approval will occur.

ONAMI is the first Oregon Signature Research Center. A cooperative venture among government and world-class nano-science and microtechnology R&D institutions and industry in the Northwest, ONAMI was created to cultivate research and commercialization. Partner universities include the University of Oregon, Oregon State, Portland State, and Oregon Health & Sciences University.



Community welcome

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Manager Jon Ruiz, UO Vice President for Student Affairs Robin Holmes, Dean of Students Paul Shang, Assistant Dean of Students Sheryl Eyster, UO Department of Public Safety Chief Doug Tripp, Eugene Police Department Chief Pete Kerns, and student, city, and neighborhood leaders walked campus neighborhoods to welcome students back to the UO and the larger community. Leaders encouraged students to be good neighbors and provided information about crime prevention and rental rights and responsibilities.

At last year's inaugural event, 25 participants reached approximately 600 households in the West and South University neighborhoods. This year nearly 2,000 packets of information were distributed by volunteers through those neighborhoods as well as the Fairmount neighborhood to the east of campus.

The evening concluded with a town hall meeting hosted by Mayor Piercy. Near campus neighbors participated in a discussion about campus and community relations with panelists President Lariviere, Vice President for Student Affairs Robin Holmes, ASUO President Amelie Rousseau, and City Councilor Alan Zelenka.

The event was coordinated by the Office of Government and Community Relations with support from the Office of the Dean of Students, the Department of Public Safety, the InfoGraphics Lab, the City of Eugene, and neighborhood associations.



State Relations

Interim budget committee meets, approves funding for Gilbert Hall renovation

The Emergency Board, the legislative committee responsible for interim budget allocations, met in Salem September 22-23 to consider a host of adjustments to state agency budgets, including several requests pertaining to higher education.



Among key actions were an increase in the expenditure limitation for the UO's Gilbert Hall, allowing the university to spend an additional \$2 million in private gift funds if needed for renovation and expansion of the historic building.

The project was approved in 2007, and began

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Go Duck! Support the Duck for Mascot of the Year

Vote early, vote often!

The Oregon Duck needs your help. The Duck is competing in the Capitol One Mascot Bowl for the title of Mascot of the Year.

Each week the Duck will go head to head with another prominent Division I mascot. Vote for the Duck at <http://www.capitalonebowl.com/vote/main>

Then spread the word to your friends and family. Go Duck!



Announcement

Government and Community Relations welcomes Jared Mason-Gere

Jared Mason-Gere joined the Office of Government and Community Relations this month, filling a government and community relations associate position held vacant since June.



Mason-Gere was the Director of Business Advocacy at the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce before moving to the University of Oregon. He led the organization's public policy, advocacy, and leadership development initiatives and managed issues communications and membership engagement efforts.

Previously, he served as chief legislative staff to State Representative Phil Barnhart (D-Eugene) and has held leadership positions in a variety of local political and non-profit organizations.

Mason-Gere is available at jaredm@uoregon.edu or 541-346-5381.

Voter registration deadline approaches; new law allows online registration

The deadline to register to vote in the November 2nd, 2010 elections is October 12th. Thanks to a law passed in the 2009 Oregon Legislature, Oregonians may now register to vote and update old registration information online.

Click <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/orestar/vr/register.do?lang=eng> to register, or visit <http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/voterresources.html> for more voting information.

Community Welcome

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President Lariviere went on to note that the timing of the university's proposed public endowment is subject to a variety of factors including passage of a constitutional amendment, the ability of the university to raise matching donations, and the state's debt capacity. The earliest likely referral to voters would occur November 2012 with subsequent action required by the Legislature in 2013 with no bonds likely to be sold until 2014.

Gilbert Hall

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February 2010, to improve the safety, functionality, and energy efficiency of the building. While it appears that the construction will come in under the \$8 million budgeted, the additional money is a contingency in the event other costs arise.

DeFazio

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congressional consideration for reauthorization of the five-year surface transportation legislation. Schlossberg and Larco described for the congressmen how federal transportation research policy should consider the dissemination of research findings through a clearinghouse and applied programs like the Sustainable Cities Initiative.

DeFazio, who earned his master's degree from UO, and Oberstar later visited the University of Oregon in Portland at the White Stag Block. They spoke to researchers at the [Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium](#) (OTREC), emphasizing the need to put transportation research findings into practice.