



# Public and Government Affairs Update



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## State Relations

### **Senate announces committee appointments; House leadership takes shape**

Senate President Peter Courtney announced the committee chairs for the 2011 Legislature on Friday, December 10. Among notable appointments, Sen. Mark Hass (D-Beaverton), a UO alum, will chair the Education and Workforce Development committee which will contemplate a number of education reform proposals.

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## Community Relations

### **University works with neighbors, prepares for arena launch**

With the January 13, 2011 opening of the Matthew Knight Arena nearing, university team members are continuing their more than three years of work to mitigate the impact on surrounding neighborhoods. Since the new arena, at Franklin Boulevard and Villard Street, is at the edge of a busy business district and residential neighborhood, the university is taking extra care to communicate with neighbors as the new arena becomes active.

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## Federal Relations

### **Congress plans short-term CR, scuttles Senate Omnibus**

Yesterday Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced that he no longer had the Republican votes needed to pass the Senate Omnibus budget bill intended to finalize the federal budget for FY 2011. Instead, the Senate will consider a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to keep the federal government operating.

Congress also sent to the president for signature an extension of tax cuts.

The U.S. Senate Omnibus budget conference bill contains funds for the University of Oregon's requests for research projects. In all, Oregon's congressional delegation has designated \$11.15 million from the defense appropriations bill for

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*For more information about this newsletter, please contact Jared Mason-Gere at (541) 346-5381 or [jaredm@uoregon.edu](mailto: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](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu). We can help!*

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State Relations

## **Town hall on New Partnership scheduled for January**

University President Richard Lariviere and University Senate President Nathan Tublitz will lead a discussion of the New Partnership initiative at a Town Hall style event scheduled for Wednesday, January 26.

The meeting will be an opportunity for the entire campus community to learn more about the proposal, and all are encouraged to participate.

After an introduction and overview of the New Partnership, finance faculty and experts from the University of Oregon Foundation will describe the endowment proposal, and Miller Nash attorney Jeff Condit will detail the legislative language and constitutional requirements.

Over an hour will be dedicated to answering questions from faculty, staff, and other interested parties.

The town hall will be held from 4:00pm to 6:00pm on January 26, in the Erb Memorial Union Ballroom.

For more details visit <http://newpartnership.uoregon.edu>

Federal Relations

## **IMLS Reauthorization goes to President**

The Museum and Library Services Act (IMLS) of 2010, S. 3984, reauthorizing the Institute of Museum and Library Services, passed the US Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee with the support of Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley in committee. The bill passed the Senate with unanimous consent on December 7 and by voice vote December 14 in the House. It is now awaiting the President's signature before becoming law.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services serves as the main source of federal support for the United States' libraries and museums, coordinating with organizations at state and local levels to promote learning and innovation.

The UO advocated for passage of the IMLS Act of 2010, asking the Oregon congressional delegation to continue funding that has helped the university carry out projects of benefit to the state and the nation. IMLS grants allowed for a joint partnership with the university's Museum of Natural and Cultural History to digitize Don Hunter's recordings, capturing rare footage and sounds of people in Oregon during the 1930s. In 2007, IMLS funding allowed a successful project at the UO Knight Library to digitize Oregon's newspapers, preserving and improving access to over a century's worth of Oregon history.



State Relations

## **Legislature to pursue improvements to campus public safety**

In efforts to improve service and increase campus safety, university leadership will work with the Oregon University System and Eugene area State Senator Floyd Prozanski to explore campus policing legislation in the 2011 legislative session. The Senate Judiciary committee chaired by Senator Prozanski will introduce legislation that will modernize state statutes governing campus public safety organizations.

The legislation is aimed at allowing for increased responsiveness, training, oversight, and efficiency in campus public safety departments.

If approved, the proposals would allow individual public university campuses to consider a gradual transition to a sworn police agency with state certified police officers, bringing those universities in line with the majority of Pac-10 schools, and every other public Association of American Universities member.

Conversations are currently underway at the university to develop a comprehensive oversight component of the legislation. A broad variety of campus community representatives will be involved in this conversation.

Town hall forums and a number of drop-in conversation sessions will be announced for the month of January, as a compliment to previous outreach efforts undertaken throughout the last year.

Federal Relations

## **DREAM Act passes, Senate to consider soon**

The House on December 6 approved the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010 ([H.R. 6497](#)) by a vote of 216-198. The DREAM Act would provide a legal pathway to citizenship for young adults brought to the United States as children who have either completed two years of college or military service.

Oregon Democrats Peter DeFazio and Earl Blumenauer voted in favor of the measure. Congressmen Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Greg Walden (R-OR) opposed the measure. Congressman David Wu of Portland (D-OR) did not vote. He is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1751, an earlier version of the DREAM Act.

In the Senate, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will have the Senate consider the bill after Christmas. Democrats last week voted to table the motion to proceed on the Senate version of the bill (S. 3992), opting instead to try to pass the House bill before final adjournment this week.

### **Omnibus**

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research projects that are directly managed by the University of Oregon or shared with Oregon State and Portland State Universities.

The bill contains \$1.6 million for the University of Oregon's Brain Safety Net research initiative that includes plans to secure a new functional MRI. The Omnibus also contains \$9.55 million for nanoscience research projects associated with the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI).

The House budget bill contains no earmarks and the Senate Omnibus was expected to substitute for the House bill.



State Relations

## Legislative committees prepare for 2011 session

Legislative committees met in Salem this week for the final interim meetings before the start of the 2011 Legislative session, and took action on several items important to the University of Oregon.

The Emergency Board passed two capital construction requests by the University of Oregon. The expenditure limitation allowing for the purchase of the site of the Department of Administrative Services Springfield Motor Pool property passed without objection, as did the expenditure limitation for the UO Computing Center renovation.

While the Springfield property will continue to be used as a motor pool in the immediate future, UO's purpose in purchasing the property is to preserve the site for other long term facility opportunities. Future potential uses include a campus park and ride, storage for student vehicles, a warehouse to free up space on the main campus, a possible shared fleet management facility which could serve local governments and Lane Community College, and/or development of mixed use retail, commercial, and housing space. The computing center renovation project is scheduled for completion by the end of April 2011. The renovation will include upgrading utilities serving the facility, installing new cooling equipment for the server spaces, renovating the interior to make more space available for servers, and installing racking and other equipment needed to increase server capacity.

In other activities, the Higher Education Workgroup, co-chaired by Senator Mark Hass, (D-Beaverton), and Representative Tobias Read, (D-Beaverton) approved expansive draft legislation that would introduce a Higher Education Coordinating Council and give public universities

increased autonomy.

In a letter in support of the legislation, OUS Chancellor Pernsteiner and President of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education Paul Kelly indicated that the bill contains in substantial form the State Board Reform Proposal that is supported by all seven university presidents. The Reform Proposal "calls for the transition of the Oregon University System from its current, outmoded status as a state agency to a more vital and flexible public university system."

The Senate Education and Government Committee formally determined that the committee will pursue the legislation in the 2011 session.

State Relations

## New Partnership draws broad attention

As the start of the 2011 Legislative session approaches, the New Partnership proposal to stabilize university funding and increase UO's public accountability continues. The plan has caused the national press to take notice, and a number of statewide publications have pointed to the increasing energy behind the proposal.

This fall, the New Partnership has been featured by *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, and several Portland area publications. *The Portland Business Journal*, in an early December analysis of Oregon education politics, referenced the "momentum" building behind the proposal, and *The Oregonian* has called for bold and innovative proposals to address budget shortfalls and spark the state's economic development efforts.

For a full list of media coverage of the New Partnership, links to the articles, and to learn more about the proposal, visit <http://newpartnership.uoregon.edu>



### Senate Committees

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Sen. Richard Devlin, (D-Tualatin), also a Duck, will co-chair the budget-writing Ways and Means Committee, Sen. Rod Monroe (D-Portland), will co-chair the Ways and Means Education Sub-committee, and UO alumnus Sen. Dave Nelson (R-Pendleton) heads the Capital Construction Ways and Means Sub-Committee, which will oversee all building construction and renovation expenditures. UO undergraduate and law school alumna Sen. Suzanne Bonamici (D-NW Portland/Beaverton) will oversee the redistricting process, as the Legislature begins the constitutionally mandated process of redrawing legislative district boundaries.

Lane County area legislators will continue to wield influence in 2011, as Sen. Chris Edwards (D-Eugene) assumes the co-chairmanship of the Natural Resources Sub-committee of Ways and Means and Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene) will lead the Senate Judiciary Committee. Returning to the legislature after an eight-year absence, Senator-elect Lee Beyer, also a Duck, will chair the Business, Transportation and Economic Development Committee.



**Bruce Hanna**



**Arnie Roblan**

Appointments in the House of Representatives remain under negotiation as Republicans and Democrats determine how to navigate the divided chamber, which has equal membership for the first time in Oregon history. Already leaders have agreed on a co-speakership, with veteran lawmakers Rep. Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg) and Rep. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) receiving their parties' nominations, with formal votes to occur at the start of the 2011 session.

### Arena opening

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Government and Community Relations are collaborating with neighborhood leaders, UO Athletics, campus planning staff, and partners at the City of Eugene to provide event patrons information to make their arrival convenient and less impactful on nearby neighbors. Attendees will receive parking information, as well as guides to public transit and bike and pedestrian travel. Guests will be reminded to be respectful of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Traffic and parking around the arena will be closely monitored, with UO students in the Planning and Public Policy department participating in the process of collecting and compiling the data. Neighborhood, city, and



university representatives will participate in a monitoring committee to determine the effectiveness of traffic control and parking operations.

An exciting sports season combined with a number of major musical and entertainment acts are in store for Matthew Knight arena, and excitement surrounding the opening of the new arena is mounting. The university's work will be ongoing to ensure the best possible transition as the community welcomes this new amenity.