

# Public and Government Affairs Update

## FEDERAL RELATIONS

### UO Assists Pursuit of Oregon Patent Office

On Thursday, October 27, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) met with Kimberly Espy, UO vice president for research and innovation and dean of the Graduate School,



US Senator Ron Wyden meets with the UO's Kimberly Espy

and a group of industry, university, and business leaders from around the state at Oregon Health and Science University to discuss ways

to ensure Oregon as a contender for the site of a new satellite federal patent and trademark office.

Portland is currently in national competition for the site of the next office, which western states are now vying for. A letter signed by more than one hundred Oregon institutions was sent to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, making the case for the city of Portland. Read the [letter](#).

## STATE RELATIONS

### Board Fires President Lariviere; Area Elected Officials Offer Support

On November 28, the State Board of Higher Education, at the recommendation of Oregon University System chancellor George Pernsteiner, voted to end the contract of University of Oregon president Richard Lariviere, without cause. President Lariviere's last day will be December 28, 2011. A process is currently under way to find and appoint an interim president.

A variety of elected officials have released correspondence relating to the state board decision. Congressman Peter DeFazio, on November 30, issued a statement; on Saturday, November 27, members of the Oregon Legislative from the Eugene-Springfield metro area sent a letter to the board urging delay of their decision; also on November 27, nineteen legislators from throughout Oregon signed a letter in support of President Lariviere; the Eugene City Council passed a resolution on November 30, expressing gratitude to President Lariviere "for his commitment to the University of Oregon and the greater community."

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Explore Oregon Focuses on Financial Aid and Admissions

How does the UO attract, enroll, and retain Oregon's best and brightest students? With costs rising and state support for higher education dwindling, how does the UO ensure that Oregonians can afford to attend?

These were among the questions answered at the November 18 "Explore Oregon" event hosted by Government and Community Relations. This fall, the UO welcomed the most diverse and well-prepared freshman class in the university's history. The meeting focused on strategies employed by university leadership and admissions and enrollment management staff members to attract and retain top students.

Roger Thompson, vice provost for enrollment management, provided an overview of the enrollment process, Brian Henley, director of admissions, explained the UO's innovative outreach to prospective students, and Jim Brooks, director of student financial aid and scholarships,

described methods for increasing access to student aid. Two current students who receive financial aid wrapped up the presentation by sharing their experience at the university, and detailed how financial aid allowed them to enroll at the UO.

A number of elected officials and community and business leaders attended the presentation, and then toured the Business Research Institute at the Lundquist College of Business.

"Explore Oregon" is an occasional event hosted by Government and Community Relations, serving as an opportunity for community stakeholders and policymakers to learn about different facets of the university.

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## RELATED OFFICES

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For more information, 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 University of Oregon event, please contact us first at 541-346-5020 or at [gcr@uoregon.edu](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu). We can help!

**FEDERAL RELATIONS****DeFazio Joins  
UO Bike Program for  
Tour of Campus****Congressman Peter DeFazio tours campus**

Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Oregon) toured campus by bike at the end of October with students, faculty members, and leadership officers from the Live Move program, the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, the Office for Research, Innovation, and Graduate Education, and the Sustainable Cities Initiative.

The tour route focused on projects to which UO students contributed and that address some federal transportation priorities targeting reductions in greenhouse gases, increasing the number of children who walk and bike to school, and creating a robust bicycle infrastructure for normal, everyday use.

DeFazio rode with students from the School of Architecture and Allied Arts as well as Dean Frances Bronet through campus and nearby neighborhoods. The ride was led by Marc Schlossberg, associate professor in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management and associate director of the Sustainable Cities Initiative.

DeFazio, who worked as a bicycle mechanic to support himself while pursuing his master's degree at Oregon, boasts that he is the first bicycle mechanic elected to Congress.

**STATE RELATIONS****Symposium on 40-40-20  
Goals Held in Corvallis**

Governor John Kitzhaber hosted elected officials and education leaders from throughout the state at a symposium in Corvallis on November 1 to discuss how the state can make progress toward attainment of its 40-40-20 goals. The Oregon legislature formally adopted the goals during the 2011 legislative session when they passed SB 253. The 40-40-20 slogan refers to the stated goals of having 40 percent of all adult Oregonians earn a bachelor's degree, 40 percent an associate's degree, and 20 percent a high school diploma or equivalent by the year 2025.

UO President Richard Lariviere participated in an afternoon panel exploring opportunities for collaboration across the education continuum, drawing upon the strength of the work he has done in partnering with high schools, school districts, and community colleges in the greater Eugene area and throughout the state.

**FEDERAL RELATIONS****Advocates Urge  
Protection of Financial Aid**

The University of Oregon has joined the Student Aid Alliance, a coalition of colleges, universities, and higher education and public interest associations calling for the preservation of student aid funding. University of Oregon president Richard Lariviere previously had signed a petition calling for Congress to protect student financial aid. On November 22, the university sent a call to action to UO alumni, urging them to sign the petition.

Already, recent federal budget deals have led to cuts of \$30 billion from financial aid programs. The university is working to protect core programs such as Federal Pell Grants, TRIO, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate

Programs (GEAR UP), and student loan benefits.

In the wake of the economic recession, advocates have urged lawmakers to ensure that students have an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to drive a strong economic recovery.

Members of the University of Oregon community who are interested in participating in the effort to protect student aid can sign [this petition](#) or visit [studentaidalliance.org](http://studentaidalliance.org) to learn more about the Student Aid Alliance and federal student aid.

**STATE RELATIONS****Economic Forecast Shows  
State Down \$107 Million**

On November 17, in a joint interim meeting of the Oregon Senate Finance and Revenue Committee and House Revenue Committee, the state economist released the quarterly economic and revenue forecast.

Projections are that state revenues are down another \$107 million since the last forecast in September. State economist Mark McMullen resisted saying Oregon is in a recession but discussed Oregon's slow and anemic growth. The state's economic recovery is very muted and growth is not projected to exceed 3 percent until 2014, if the housing sector shows improvement. McMullen said current growth is at "stall speed," and that leaves the economy vulnerable to recession risks. McMullen put the odds of reentering a recessionary period at 40 percent, though he did add that an additional recession would be mild, given that there is little distance to fall, given the lack of recovery.

For more detailed information, read the [state economist's presentation](#) and the full [Oregon Economic and Revenue Forecast](#).

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS****UO, City of Eugene Share Town-Gown Best Practices**

Sarah Medary, City of Eugene assistant city manager, and Greg Rikhoff, UO director of community relations, traveled to Tallahassee, Florida, earlier this fall to discuss the strong working partnership between the City of Eugene and the university and best practices for interinstitution relationships. Town and Gown Tallahassee, an organization devoted to fostering relationships and capitalizing on the community assets that higher education provides in the city, brought Medary and Rikhoff to present because of recent successes and accomplishments in Eugene and the University of Oregon.

Among the keys Medary and Rikhoff highlighted were strengthening relationships between organization executives, and understanding that while organization missions differ, both the university and city share goals of strengthening their shared community.

**FEDERAL RELATIONS****Three Percent Withholding Rule Repealed**

House Bill 674, repealing the 3 percent withholding requirement for certain payments made to vendors by government entities, has been enacted. The University of Oregon had joined the National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers and a broad coalition of education and business organizations in supporting the repeal.

The House of Representatives passed the repeal 422–0 on November 16; the Senate approved the same version the previous week, after adding a provision requiring a U.S. Department of the Treasury study on how to increase tax compliance. President Barack Obama signed the repeal into law on November 21.

The 3 percent withholding requirement, authorized in 2006 and set to take effect in 2013, would have restricted funding for institutions participating in federal programs or contracts by requiring financial set asides.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon, Third District), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, led the floor debate during consideration by the U.S. House.

**STATE RELATIONS****Legislature Meets in Interim Days; Confirms OEIB**

The Oregon Senate on Friday, November 18, voted to confirm the nominated members of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB). The board, created as part of SB 909 during the 2011 legislative session, will oversee a unified system

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UO President Richard Lariviere introduces area legislators at the Allen Hall celebration

**STATE RELATIONS****Lawmakers Join UO Leadership for Allen Hall Celebration**

Eugene-Springfield area state legislators joined President Richard Lariviere, UO School of Journalism and Communication leaders, students, and university supporters on November 4 for a celebration of Allen Hall renovations.

Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), Representative Phil Barnhart (D-Central Lane and Linn Counties), Representative Paul Holvey (D-Eugene), and Representative Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene) all attended the event to recognize supporters who played a role in allowing the renovation and expansion to take place. The Oregon State Legislative Assembly provided \$7.5 million in general obligation bonds in the 2009 legislative session for construction. President Lariviere and Tim Gleason, dean of the School of Journalism and Communication, both thanked the legislature in their remarks for their support of the project.

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of education, from early-childhood education through the university level. Governor John Kitzhaber will serve as the board's chair, with Springfield School District superintendent and University of Oregon graduate and faculty member Nancy Golden his alternate.

The OEIB had been set for confirmation at the September meeting of the legislature, but was stalled due to ongoing concerns by members of the Senate Republican Caucus. Nominees met in the intervening time as the "SB 909 Workgroup" to chart the course for their work.

Additional Oregon Education Investment Board members are Richard C. "Dick" Alexander, Julia Brim-Edwards, Consuelo Yvonne Curtis, Matthew W. Donegan, Samuel D. Henry, Nichole Maher, Mark Mulvihill, David Rives, Ron Saxton,

Mary Spilde (president of Lane Community College), Kay D. Toran, and Johanna "Hanna" Vaandering.

In a December 1 [press release](#), Governor John Kitzhaber described his plans for implementation of OEIB including legislative action in February 2011 and the 2013 legislative session.

#### FEDERAL RELATIONS

### Grant Reform Act Passes House Committee

On November 17, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform passed H.R. 3433, the Grant Reform and New Transparency Act of 2011. The bill is intended to provide more transparency in the awarding of federal grants.

The Association of American Universities (AAU) and Association of Public

and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), of which the UO is a member, had encouraged the committee to pass two amendments before passing the bill to the full House of Representatives for a vote, and expressed a number of other concerns about possible side effects of the legislation.

On November 28, the AAU and APLU joined with the Council on Governmental Relations to send a letter to the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Representative Darrell Issa (R-California), and the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations, and Procurement Reform, Representative James Lankford (R-Oklahoma), expressing their concerns.

The House of Representatives has yet to vote on the bill.



#### STATE RELATIONS

### Roblan to Run for Oregon Senate

Speaker Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) announced at the end of October that he will seek election to Oregon Senate District 5, which is being vacated by Senator Joanne Verger (D-Coos Bay). Verger is retiring after two terms in the Senate and two terms in the House of Representatives. Previously, she was a four-term mayor of Coos Bay and small business owner.

Roblan, who serves as Cospeaker of the House with Representative Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg) due to the 30-30 Democrat-Republican split in the House of Representatives, has been in the legislature since 2006. He is a retired high school principal who received his master's degree from the UO's College of Education, where he also served on the school's advisory board. Roblan is a past UO distinguished alumnus.

Senate District 5 is a large coastal district running from Coos Bay in the south to Lincoln City in the north, with portions of western Douglas and Lane Counties included in the district. Until redistricting, the district included the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology.



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