



# Public and Government Affairs Update



Summer 2010

Issue No. 50

STATE RELATIONS

## Revenue forecast drops another \$377.5 million

Oregon's 2009-11 revenue forecast released this week is down \$377.5 million from the June forecast. Personal income is down \$402.3 million in 2009-11 while corporate income taxes increased \$22.5 million, roughly \$26 million above the kicker threshold according to the State Office of Economic Analysis. The updated 2009-11 forecast is \$1.2 billion less than the July 2009 end of session forecast. The principal reason for the lower projection continues to be the significant drop in personal income taxes—an inevitable result of double digit unemployment levels.

Oregon's economy, like that of the US economy, is showing signs of a slowdown the second part of this year. Oregon housing sales remain sluggish and the June unemployment rate hovers around 10.5 percent where it has been for most of the past year. Total employment is expected to decrease 0.8 percent in the third quarter of 2010 with a slight uptick of 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter.

The state economist projects improving employment figures the second quarter of 2011 with a 2.0 percent increase but stronger employment is not anticipated prior to the end of 2011. Job losses have occurred across virtually all employment sectors. Particularly hard hit sectors have been transportation equipment, construction, and financial. Education and health services sectors will have small job growth in 2010 with increasing growth in 2011 and 2012.

The Governor, Senate President, and the Speaker of the House outlined the following steps to bring the budget into balance after the release of the *(continued on page 2)*

FEDERAL RELATIONS

## US House sets aside research dollars for UO, Senate action pending

The US House of Representatives took action on UO's federal agenda earlier this month. The House passed the US Department of Defense appropriations bill that included funds set aside for UO research projects.

Brain Safety Net was targeted for \$2 million, intended for fMRI instrumentation, while more than \$5 million was slated for the Oregon Nanscience and Microtechnologies Institute, a research initiative involving UO, Oregon State, Portland State and the Oregon Health Sciences University.

Action by the US Senate is expected when members of Congress return to Washington, D.C. after Labor Day.

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*For more information about this newsletter, please contact the Office of Government and Community Relations at (541) 346-5020 or email to [gcr@uoregon.edu](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu) 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.*

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## East campus residence hall breaks ground

Work on the \$75 million, 454-bed East Campus Residence Hall started in July. The building is part of the UO's effort to update and increase on-campus housing. State bonds, repaid through student rent, and private gifts will pay for the structure.



L to r: Rep. Phil Barnhart, the Duck, President Richard Lariviere, VP Student Affairs Robin Holmes, Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy

## State revenue forecast

(Continued from page 1)

September revenue forecast:

The Governor will utilize his statutory allotment authority as provided under ORS 291.261 to make additional across the board cuts.

The Governor will ask state agencies to begin developing plans to implement the cuts needed to rebalance the budget for the remainder of this biennium, which amounts to 8% reductions with 9 months remaining in the 2009-11 biennium.

Through the bipartisan Legislative Emergency Board and the 2011 session, funding will be restored to maintain K-12 schools at their current funding level; maintain critical services for our seniors and vulnerable Oregonians; protect public safety and prevent prison closures for the remainder of the current biennium.

There is no plan for a special legislative session to address the budget shortfall. Details about specific agency cuts will be available prior to the next Emergency Board meeting on September 23.

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## UO partners with the community at Eugene Celebration

The biggest party in Tracktown U.S.A. August 27 - 29 was the annual Eugene Celebration. The University of Oregon was involved in many ways and that included more than 150 faculty, staff, students and families.



This year's Eugene Celebration theme "Raise the Roof" honored the event's support of Habitat for Humanity and community volunteer partnerships. The University of Oregon's presence focused on the themes "Raising the Future" and "Partners in Community" with an on-site storefront location, Eugene Celebration parade entry and volunteer opportunities.

The UO's parade entry included Richard and Jan Lariviere, the Duck mascot, Pedi-cabs with drivers from the UO Outdoor Program, and more than 80 current and future Ducks. The UO also took over a storefront location in the heart of the Eugene Celebration footprint and filled it with information and representatives from more than a dozen UO departments, programs, and projects, including the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, the Office of Admissions, the Oregon Humanities Center, the School of Journalism and Communication, the School of Music and Dance, the Holden Leadership Center's Service Learning Program, the Lane County Chapter of the UO Alumni Association, the Competition Not Conflict program, the UO Libraries, and more. In addition, UO staff, faculty and students provided volunteer power for the Eugene Celebration's "Waste Warriors" recycling crew.





STATE RELATIONS

## Joint Legislative Higher Education Workgroup hears OUS new governance proposal

State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) Chair Paul Kelly and Oregon University System (OUS) Chancellor George Pernsteiner presented the OUS legislative concept outlining a new governance proposal to the Joint Legislative Higher Education Workgroup meeting held at Oregon State University on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The OUS proposal includes language that would allow for local governing or institutional boards. It is silent in addressing the funding challenges associated with declining state appropriations for higher education in Oregon and the UO.

As part of their presentation, Chair Kelly referenced a letter sent to the Joint Legislative Higher Education Workgroup signed by all seven OUS institution presidents including UO President Richard Lariviere and Chancellor Pernsteiner expressing support for the OUS governance reform proposal. The full text of the letter can be viewed at <http://newpartnership.uoregon.edu/files/2010/08/LTR-to-Higher-Ed-Work-Group-from-Presidents-Chancellor-2010-08021.pdf>.

Highlights of the reform proposal include:

- Change in organizational status for OUS from that of a state agency to a statewide public university system with the same powers that Oregon community college districts enjoy (with the exception of the ability to levy property taxes) with greater autonomy over operations and finances;
- An option for the SBHE to delegate some its authority to institutional boards;
- The authority to enter into performance agreements with the state;
- Statewide goal of access to affordable higher education for all Oregonians;
- Additional statutory authority over risk management and the retention of all investment earnings;
- Tuition setting would continue to be the responsibility of the SBHE and a new requirement would be implemented for open and participative tuition development processes at each campus.

The OUS proposal can be viewed at [http://www.ous.edu/state\\_board/workgroups/gpc/Governance%20Proposal%20July%2005SBHE%20docket.pdf](http://www.ous.edu/state_board/workgroups/gpc/Governance%20Proposal%20July%2005SBHE%20docket.pdf).

This was the third meeting of the Workgroup. Members listened attentively and had a number of questions for Chair Kelly and Chancellor Pernsteiner. Next up for the Workgroup is a presentation by UO President Richard Lariviere about his proposal for a New Partnership with the State at their meeting tentatively scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup>. The UO's New Partnership proposal can be viewed at: <http://newpartnership.uoregon.edu/>.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

## Merkley hosts discussion about college affordability



*Left to right: Isauro Saldana, Emma Kallaway, Senator Jeff Merkley, ASUO President Amelie Rousseau*

US Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) met with students and administrators in early June in a meeting held at the Erb Memorial Union. Merkley participated in a discussion about changes to federal student aid programs including the conversion of all student loan programs to direct lending.

ASUO President Amelie Rousseau and 2009-10 ASUO President Emma Kallaway joined the forum along with UO students Isauro Saldana and Jairo Castaneda and Elizabeth Bickford, director of financial aid and scholarships. UO President Richard Lariviere kicked off the session with remarks.

Merkley also heard about the University of Oregon Pathway Oregon program that leverages the federal Pell grant program to ensure that qualified lower-income Oregonians can afford to attend UO.



*Senator Merkley and Jairo Castaneda*



FEDERAL RELATIONS

## APLU President visits campus, meets faculty

C. Peter McPherson, president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities President, visited the University of Oregon and met with faculty in late July.

McPherson began his meetings at UO with a roundtable discussion led by Vice President for Research Rich Linton about the role of universities in stimulating economic development. Held at Electrical Geodesics, Inc. offices in the Riverfront Research Park, the meeting included Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, Metro Partnership leader Jack Roberts, Eugene Chamber of Commerce director Dave Hauser, and a number of company representatives from spin-offs of university research.

A proponent of study abroad, McPherson also met with UO officials to learn about UO's study abroad programs. More than 25% of UO undergraduates participate in a study abroad program, making UO one of the most successful public universities in the country for achieving broad access to study abroad programs. McPherson discussed federal initiatives designed to promote study abroad including pending legislation and the Gilman program.

Faculty representatives for each of the Big Ideas joined McPherson for lunch and a roundtable discussion facilitated by Linton. He ended his day with a tour of the Lokey Laboratories.

APLU Associate VP for Research Bob Samors also visited UO in mid-June, meeting with research officials and touring facilities.

Additional information about the Association of Public Land-grant Universities may be found at [www.aplu.org](http://www.aplu.org).

## DeFazio meets with faculty, films greetings for MNCH

Parents and students arriving on campus for IntroDucktion in early July found US Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) filming greetings for the Museum of Natural and Cultural History's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Families streamed behind DeFazio as he made comments about the museum's impact for Oregon. DeFazio has been a champion of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, leading the effort to secure funds for its recent expansion of the curation facility. DeFazio also met with UO Biology Professor Brendan Bohannon to hear about climate change work and other research occurring at UO. Bohannon is a Leopold Leadership program fellow.

## Washington, D.C. Round-up

**Carl Falsgraf**, director of the K-16 Chinese Flagship program and Center for Applied Second Language Studies, participated in a Language Flagship program advocacy day on Capitol Hill in early June. Directors of programs funded by the National Security Education Program held a briefing and meetings about language study initiatives with members of Congress.

**Cassandra Moseley**, director of the UO Institute for Sustainable Environment, testified before Congress in July. Moseley described research findings for the US House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands in an Oversight Hearing. She discussed creating rural jobs on the nation's public lands through strategies for conservation-oriented economic development.

**Nancy Hanscom**, assistant director, UO office of student aid & scholarships, was honored in Washington, D.C. earlier this summer. The National Direct Lending Coalition recognized UO's contributions for hosting the coalition's web site. Hanscom also participated in meetings with the direct lending coalition, including a meeting with US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

**Bob Doppelt**, executive director of the Climate Leadership Initiative, set up and facilitated meetings with the White House Office of Council on Environmental Quality Interagency Climate Adaptation Task Force and four groups including the state of Washington, state of Oregon, 20 Pacific Northwest federal agencies with climate change responsibilities and the Lower Willamette Climate Preparedness Future project advisory committee. This came about in part through the Kresge Foundation identifying the Climate Leadership Initiative as the appropriate facilitator.



## Community relations round-up

**Riverfront Research Park:** On July 8 a state appeals board upheld a decision by City of Eugene planners that gives the University of Oregon three more years to construct additional buildings at the Riverfront Research Park.

The decision by the state's Land Use Board of Appeals moves the Riverfront Research Park and Trammell Crow closer to constructing the 80,000 square-foot, \$17 million ORI building to house Oregon Research Institute and other tenants, including the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC). It also allows for development to proceed at the 1700 Millrace location.

An effort to appeal the decision to the Oregon Court of Appeals was dropped on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Parking:** Major changes are underway for the UO's parking program which will result in more parking capacity and generally greater convenience for students, employees, and visitors. With the parking attached to the construction of Matthew Knight Arena and the Ford Alumni Center and the need to replace parking displaced by the East Campus Residence Hall project the university will be creating several new parking lots, including:

- Villard Alley (south of 15th between Moss and Villard Streets) - *54 spaces*
- Walnut Station (corner of 15th Ave. and Walnut Street) - *64 spaces*
- Former Oregon Dept. of Transportation property (near 15th Ave. and Walnut Street) - *132 spaces*
- Arena parking structure - *375 spaces*
- Columbia Street south of 13th - *54 spaces*
- Villard Street east of Arena - *20 spaces*
- Northside lot on Riverfront Pkwy. north of the Millrace - *151 spaces*
- Moss Street between 15th and 17th - *79 spaces*

By the beginning of 2011, the total number of parking spaces on campus will be over 3700, an increase of over 600 spaces compared to the 2009 - 2010 academic year.

## Senate confirms OSU's Lynda Ciuffetti to State Board of Higher Education



Gov. Ted Kulongoski's appointment of Lynda M. Ciuffetti, a professor and department head of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University, to serve on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education was confirmed by the Oregon State Senate in May.

Ciuffetti's term on the Board will begin on July 1, 2010 and continue through June 30, 2012, at which time she will be eligible for re-appointment. She replaces Board member Dalton Miller-Jones, a faculty member at Portland State University who has served on the Board since 2006.

Ciuffetti has been a member of OSU's faculty since 1990, first as a grant-supported assistant research professor, then as a tenure-track assistant professor starting in 1995, moving on to associate professor (1999) and full professor (2004) in Botany and Plant Pathology.

Ciuffetti has held several leadership positions at OSU, including her current position as department head of Botany and Plant Pathology, Faculty Senate president, member of the President's Cabinet, and other advisory and mentoring roles. She is broadly published in her field, including contributions to leading science journals, book chapters, laboratory manuals, conference proceedings, and is a frequent speaker at scientific meetings. Since the beginning of her OSU career, Ciuffetti has been awarded numerous grants totaling almost \$4.5 million from organizations such as the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She has also won several awards over her career, including the Beaver Champion Award from OSU in 2009 and the Elizabeth P. Richie Distinguished Professor Award from OSU in 2003.