

# Public and Government Affairs Update



Interim President Berdahl speaks to guests at Explore Oregon

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### Local leaders attend Explore Oregon event at Matthew Knight Arena

On February 25, UO [Government and Community Relations](#) hosted an [Explore Oregon](#) event that coincided with the winter meeting of the [University of Oregon Alumni Association's](#) board. Community leaders joined UOAA board members at the Matthew Knight Arena's Founders Club to hear about the UO and its partnerships with the community.

Attendees heard from Greg Rikhoff, director of community relations; Janell Bergstrom, director of women's basketball operations; Kimberly Andrews Espy, vice president for research and innovation and dean of the Graduate School; Jamie Moffitt, vice president for finance and administration; and Bob Berdahl, UO interim president. The leadership team talked about the UO's investment in the community, the links between research and local industry, and the administra-

tive functions that support the running of the university that is much like a town with a population of 30,000, among other topics. University of Oregon Alumni Association executive director Tim Clevenger and University of Oregon director of intercollegiate athletics Rob Mullins were also on hand to greet guests and alumni.

After a brief reception, officials and alumni board members attended the UO women's basketball team's Civil War game against Oregon State University.

## STATE RELATIONS

### Legislature wraps up session, moves higher education reform bills

The Oregon Legislature adjourned its first even-year session on March 5, 2012. The monthlong session saw the revision of the state's biennial budget to account for reduced revenue projections, movement on health-care legislation, and discussion of education reform.

Among the legislation that passed was [HB 4061](#), which created a Special Committee on University Governance. The committee will comprise equal numbers of Oregon House and Oregon Senate members and is tasked with examining local governance board models and recommending a way forward for universities to create local boards. It is scheduled to report its findings by August 2012 and recommend legislation to the 2013 legislative session. The bill passed through the House on a vote of 43–13 and the Senate with a vote of 22–5.

The legislature also approved two other bills that constitute part of Governor John Kitzhaber's education reform agenda. [SB 1538](#) clarifies the role of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), bringing it fully under the purview of the [Oregon Education Investment Board \(OEIB\)](#). The bill also set up a process for the HECC to look at student issues and make recommendations to the OEIB and legislature. On the last day of the session,

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For more information or to invite government officials to a University of Oregon event, please contact Government and Community Relations at 541-346-5020 or at [gcr@uoregon.edu](mailto:gcr@uoregon.edu). We can help!

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the legislature also approved [SB 1581](#) that allows the OEIB to establish achievement compacts with educational institutions, including individual universities.

Another bill that survived the session, [HB 4058](#), directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to convene a work group to study strategies for and make recommendations on reducing higher education textbook costs. Finally, the legislature passed the so-called Paterno bill that makes university employees mandatory reporters in cases of child abuse.

Also on March 5, both the Oregon House and Senate officially approved a budget rebalance that includes a 3.5 percent hold back for the Oregon University System, about half of the 7 percent held back at the end of last session. The holdbacks comes as the result of a revised state revenue forecast at the beginning of February that showed another \$35 million shortfall since the last quarterly forecast at the end of 2011. Overall, projected revenue fell \$341 million since the end of the 2011 legislative session.

To learn more about the revised state budget, [click here](#).

#### FEDERAL RELATIONS

### Research vice president Kimberly Espy visits D.C., meets with Oregon congressional delegation

Kimberly Andrews Espy, the UO's vice president for research and innovation and dean of the Graduate School, traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to meet with members of the Oregon congressional delegation and agency officials.

The purpose of Espy's trip to D.C. was to highlight for congressional leaders the work of the University of Oregon in research and education and the UO's federal budget and policy priorities. She presented lawmakers and their staff members with information about current research activities at the UO and emphasized the economic impact of the research university on the state. She underscored the importance of federal support for research and student aid for Oregonians.

For information about the higher education community's programmatic priorities for FY2013, see the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' [FY 2013 Federal Budget Summary](#).

#### FEDERAL RELATIONS

### DeFazio lectures at Oxford in UO collaboration

On February 23, Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio (D) delivered a lecture at the University of Oxford as the guest of a UO professor currently in residence at Oxford's Merton College.

DeFazio discussed foreign policy and economic fairness at the invitation of Cheyney Ryan, a UO professor of philosophy and law who is engaged in a multiyear project at Oxford. DeFazio is experienced in fair trade and peace issues and is a founding member of the

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#### STATE RELATIONS

### UO president, football players, and athletic staff attend Oregon Senate session, meet with governor

UO Interim President Robert Berdahl, members of the UO football team, members of the UO athletics staff, and the Oregon Duck attended a floor session of the Oregon Senate to witness the passage of [HCR 204](#), a resolution that honors the UO football team for its victory in the 2012 Rose Bowl.

The motion was carried on the floor by State Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), who praised the team's accomplishments both on and off the field: "The Ducks football team has brought pride to Oregon. The players have shown themselves to be champions both on and off the field, and their success brings attention to Oregon and



UO Football players DeWitt Stuckey and Brandon Hanna pose with Governor John Kitzhaber and the Oregon Duck

joy to fans like me." President Berdahl joined Senator Beyer on the floor of the Oregon Senate as his guest during the proceedings. The Senate unanimously passed the measure.

Following the vote, President Berdahl, the football players, and athletics staff members were congratulated by Governor John Kitzhaber.

To read the full text of HCR 204, [click here](#).

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Progressive Caucus, established in 1987 to focus on budget policy.

DeFazio's visit was cosponsored by the UO School of Law and Merton's Oxford Global Directions as a part of a larger collaboration between the two schools. Ryan, a senior fellow at Merton, has been pivotal in helping the UO establish inroads in Oxford and the broader global community, as a part of the Global Oregon Big Idea—an initiative that strives to make UO graduates renowned as multilingual, internationally experienced global citizens equipped with concrete skills for success on the world stage.

To learn more about DeFazio's visit, [click here](#), and to learn more about Global Oregon, [click here](#).

#### STATE RELATIONS

### State Board of Higher Education passes campus gun ban

On March 2, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education unanimously adopted an internal policy to limit the ability of individuals to carry weapons on Oregon University System (OUS) campuses. The new policy, which took effect upon passage, forbids students, employees, individuals with a business interest with the campus (such as vendors and contractors), event attendees, those who rent or lease university property, and campus visitors from carrying a firearm on board-owned or -controlled property. Such property includes all OUS campus buildings, workspaces, and sports or performance venues. The prohibition is effective whether or not an individual holds a concealed handgun license.

The action by the board comes as the result of a September 2011 decision by the Oregon State Court of Appeals that invalidated a 1991 Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) banning guns on Oregon campuses. The court held in its ruling that the OAR attempted to “regulate” firearms in a way that the legislature intended to preempt and was, therefore, invalid. However, different rulings by the court found that agencies can adopt an internal policy to limit firearm possession and use that would not preempt the legislature.

In addition to adopting the new internal policy, the board also revised the OARs to bring them in line with the ruling. At the Friday meeting, they also discussed achievement compacts and schools of education at the OUS universities. To learn more the proceedings of the State Board of Higher Education, [click here](#).

#### FEDERAL RELATIONS

### Oregon Delegation members vote for key bill; Research Works Act withdrawn

On February 28, the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation ([HR 2117](#)) that would repeal U.S. Department of Education regulations on state authorization and credit hours. Sixty-nine Democrats joined all Republicans in the 303–114 vote on the Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act. Oregon's U.S. Representatives Peter DeFazio (D), Suzanne Bonamici (D), Kurt Schrader (D), and Greg Walden (R) voted for the bill. Originally introduced by U.S. Representative Virginia Foxx (R-Virginia), the bill would repeal the state authorization regulation, which significantly expands federal requirements for an institution to operate legally within a state.

The companion bill in the Senate ([S 1297](#)) is not expected to make progress in that chamber because of opposition from Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), the chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Meanwhile, the Research Works Act (HR 3699)—a bill that was opposed by the higher education community—was withdrawn by its sponsor. [HR 3699](#) would have prohibited all federal research funding agencies from providing free public access to scientific and scholarly articles arising from federally funded research without prior permission of the publisher. In doing so, the bill would have essentially eliminated the National Institutes of Health's PubMed Central. The PubMed Central website currently provides free public access to federally funded biomedical research articles after an embargo period of up to twelve months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

The University of Oregon signed onto a [letter](#) opposing the bill.



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