



Public and Government Affairs Update



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Issue No. 59

State Relations

Bill to improve campus policing efficiency, accountability, moves forward

On Thursday April 7, the Oregon State Senate Judiciary Committee moved SB 405 to the full Senate floor for a vote. The work session moved the bill forward on a 3-2 vote, with committee Chair Floyd Prozanski (D-South Lane, N. Douglas Counties) joining Democrats Suzanne Bonamici (D-Beaverton) and Jackie Dingfelder (D-Portland) in supporting passage. Sen. Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg) and Sen. Doug Whitsett (R-Klamath Falls) voted against.

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Community Relations

Students turn out in large numbers to help neighbors

On April 9, over 50 students joined over 30 community, city, and university leaders to complete service projects in three campus neighborhood parks. At Hendricks Park, students removed invasive species and performed park maintenance. At University Park, volunteers removed a hedge and provided other landscaping maintenance.

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Federal Relations

FY2011 deal reached, shut down averted

Over the weekend, a shutdown of the federal government was averted when the White House and congressional budget negotiators came to an agreement to continue to fund the federal government for another week. The House and Senate passed the budget agreement on Saturday.

Six months into the fiscal year, Congress has yet to pass a budget for FY2011 that began October 1, 2010. The government has continued to operate through a series of continuing resolutions that allowed for continued spending at certain levels. Negotiators agreed in principle to a spending plan for the remainder of FY2011. That

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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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2011 Election Reminder
An Election Reminder from the Offices of the General Counsel and Public & Govt Affairs

In light of the upcoming May 17 special elections, the University of Oregon Office of the General Counsel has prepared this information regarding election activity in the workplace.

Oregon law prohibits the use of public funds, equipment, and supplies to advocate for or against a ballot measure or candidate and restricts what public employees (which include University of Oregon employees) may do in support of or opposition to a ballot measure or candidate.



Public employees on their work time may NOT:

- collect funds, distribute campaign materials, or prepare correspondence on behalf of a political committee, ballot measure, or candidate;
- produce, copy, or distribute documents that advocate for or against a ballot measure or a candidate;
- post website information, transmit emails, or make a presentation that advocates for or against a ballot measure or candidate;
- make outgoing calls to schedule or organize campaign events or other political activity;
- encourage others to volunteer for a political committee or efforts related to a candidate or ballot measure;

- place political posters in a public work space or facing out on doors or windows;
- distribute political flyers.



Public employees MAY:

- use personal time, lunch hours, breaks, and days off for political activity;
- express personal political views;
- wear campaign buttons at work;
- provide balanced, objective information on ballot measures;
- impartially advise other public employees about possible effects of a ballot measure;
- use personal time and personal equipment to write letters in their personal capacity expressing an opinion on a ballot measure or candidate.

Please call Government and Community Relations at 541-346-5020 or email gcr@uoregon.edu if you have questions.



State Relations

Legislative deadline for scheduling bills passes

April 8 marked the last day for scheduling work sessions for pending bills in the chamber in which they were introduced (the Oregon Senate or the Oregon House of Representatives). Meanwhile, the deadline for holding hearings in the chamber of origin for pending bills is April 21. This means that any bill that has not been scheduled for a hearing in its chamber of origin will not receive legislative consideration this session. Legislators may still hold public, informational hearings on a bill or issue, but unlike work sessions, public hearings don't allow committees to vote on or recommend a piece of legislation to the whole body.

The evenly split 30-30 membership of the Oregon House has meant that many bills have remained stranded in their committees this session. Committees this session have even membership and a co-chair from each party. The co-chairs in the House must agree on a committee agenda, meaning that some contentious issues have been dropped from consideration, and to make it past a committee vote, a bill must gain the vote of at least one member from each party.

While the deadline has passed for scheduling a work session in the chamber of origin, legislators have until May 23 to schedule a work session in the second chamber. The work session must be held before June 1st. So if, for example, a bill originated in the House, received a work session in and passed a House committee and then the general membership of the House, in order to progress, it would have to be scheduled for a work session in the Senate by May 23 and receive that work session before June 1.

The Legislature will adjourn sine die on or before June 30.

Interested in the status of a specific bill?

Search online at:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/searchmeas.html> to see whether the bill is continuing to move.

Or contact Government Relations staff at

crwhite@uoregon.edu or

jaredm@uoregon.edu

Federal Relations

UO opposes restrictive NIH grant language in FY11 Funding Bill

The University of Oregon joined 137 other associations, institutions, and patient groups on April 4 in sending a [letter](#) to House and Senate appropriations leaders opposing restrictive language on National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants included in H.R. 1, the House-passed continuing resolution that would fund government for the remainder of the fiscal year. The language would require NIH to issue 9,000 competing awards, roughly the same level as FY10 despite a significant cut in funding, with an average research grant size of \$400,000.

The group's letter opposes the proposed \$1.6 billion cut to the NIH budget and points out that the statutory mandates on award number and size would "exacerbate the negative consequences of the cut." The letter adds, "NIH Institutes and Centers have the flexibility to make the type and size of awards that are best suited to meeting our current health challenges and scientific opportunities...If NIH is to continue to fund the highest quality research and the next generation of talented researchers in the most effective manner possible, Congress should not tie the hands of the agency by setting arbitrary boundaries on the number and size of awards."



State Relations

One more hearing held to study the New Partnership

The New Partnership, SB 559 and SJR 20, received more attention in the Oregon Legislature, with a hearing in the House Higher Education Sub-Committee. The hearing, held on April 7, featured an in-depth presentation from President Richard Lariviere, followed by a detailed question and answer period with committee members. A variety of plan backers followed the president, explaining why they believe the New Partnership will help Oregon address funding shortfalls, rising tuition, and meaningful governance reform.

Finance experts described the function of the endowment proposal contained in SJR 20, assuring the committee that even in the most economically depressed years, the university would gain more funding from the endowment over time than is currently received from the state legislature. A strong student voice was present, outlining the urgency of taking action to address rising tuition costs. A variety of parents, university alumni, educators, and University of Oregon Foundation trustees also shared their support.

President Lariviere has worked to align the New Partnership with the Governor John Kitzhaber’s proposal, SB 909, creating the Oregon Education Investment Board. In order to allow focus on SB 909, the New Partnership will be considered for passage in 2012. Advocates at the hearing urged support of SB 909, then asked committee members to take the next steps, passing the New Partnership, SB 559 and SJR 20.

In Brief

University hosts Governor at Summit

The University of Oregon hosted Governor John Kitzhaber and other officials last week at the Portland White Stag building. PPPM Prof. Robert Young brought together stakeholders and interested parties with government, business and community leaders to discuss commercial opportunities associ-

ated with compostables. The day long summit took place as part of the 2011 Green Business Symposium.



Electrifying UO

Bob Parker and the Community Service Center led a forum on electric vehicles for community leaders and policy makers at EWEB’s offices at the end of March. Panelists shared information about activities underway to encourage community adoption of infrastructure to support residential and commercial use of electric vehicles, particularly locating charging stations. Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy attended the forum along with Lane County Commissioners Pete Sorenson and Rob Handy.



State Relations

Legislative redistricting committees come to campus

The Oregon House and Senate Committees on Redistricting will hold a joint field hearing at the Knight Law School building room 175, Saturday, April 16 at 10 am. The meeting is a part of the committee's ongoing work to redistrict the state's 60 House districts and 30 Senate districts, as well as Oregon's five U.S. Congressional districts.

Redistricting is the process of redrawing legislative and congressional district lines following the decennial U.S. Census. The lines are redrawn so that districts are of roughly equal population as required by the Oregon Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.

The House and Senate committees comprise six person panels for each chamber and have held joint field hearings across the state to gain public input on the redistricting process. Public participation serves to ensure that the public is best represented by the changes to the electoral map. The Legislature must act to redraw state district lines before July 1st or the responsibility falls to the Oregon Secretary of State. There is, however, no deadline for redrawing congressional districts.

Among the House and Senate committee members are Eugene-area legislators and UO alumni Representative Paul Holvey (D-Eugene) and Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), as well as area Senator Floyd Prozanski. Senator Suzanne Bonamici, a "double Duck", chairs the Senate committee.

Public safety improvements

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At the work session, the bill was amended to include language that would require the creation of an oversight process to review officer conduct. A work group currently is meeting on campus to determine the framework for the oversight body, modeling the process on that used by the City of Eugene.

SB 405, a bill introduced by the Judiciary Committee, is designed to improve the responsiveness, training, and accountability of campus police departments. The legislation enables campus police departments to transition over time to sworn, fully trained police agencies.

The full Senate will now consider the bill before it moves to the House of Representatives.

Kelly remarks shared in Senate

Last week, Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) shared President Richard Lariviere's recollections of Coach Chip Kelly's locker room remarks following the Auburn v. Oregon BCS game.

The remarks were inserted in the April 5, 2011 Congressional Record and are available at the following link:
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CREC-2011-04-05/pdf/CREC-2011-04-05-pt1-PgS2128-2.pdf#page=1>



Day of Service

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In addition over 20 volunteers from UO's local chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, a national service-oriented accounting fraternity, continued the group's efforts at West University Park. Earlier this year, the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space staff recruited the Beta Alpha Psi to take on West University Park as an ongoing service project.



Volunteer efforts at West University Park, coincided with the City of Eugene's annual Arbor Day and Tree City USA Award ceremony, at which the City of Eugene was honored with its 32nd consecutive Tree City



USA Award. Student volunteers joined Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, Vice President for Student Affairs Robin Holmes, and representatives from the City of Eugene, the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Eugene Tree Foundation for a short ceremony and the planting of trees in and near the park.

The event was organized by the Office of Government and Community Relations, the Student Alumni Association and the Holden Leadership Center's Service Learning Program in cooperation with the City of Eugene and Fairmount, South University and West University neighborhood associations.

Budget

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spending plan is expected to be voted on tomorrow.

Details of the FY2011 spending agreement, H.R. 1473, were released this morning. Both Republican and Democratic leadership found aspects of the bill to tout. Now that the spending agreement has been made public, higher education associations are analyzing the bill for fiscal impact. Non-defense programs were expected to be cut 0.2% across-the-board. The Pell Grant maximum is reportedly maintained at \$5,550.

This morning, Congressional Quarterly's daily on-line news service and higher education associations were reporting the following cuts (the across-the-board 0.2% cut is in addition to these cuts):

- NSF is cut \$53 million from FY10 (Research -\$43 million, Education -\$10 million)
- NASA is cut \$175 million from FY10 (Education -\$38 million, Cross Agency Support \$83 million, Construction/Environment Compliance -\$54 million)
- DOE Office of Science is cut \$35 million
- DOE EERE is cut \$438 million
- NEH is cut \$13 million
- NIH Building and Facilities is cut \$50 million
- SEOG is cut \$20 million
- TRIO is cut \$25 million
- GEAR UP is cut \$20 million
- FIPSE is cut \$140 million
- Int'l Ed and Foreign Language is cut \$50 million