



Public and Government Affairs Update



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STATE RELATIONS

Education reform bills continue deliberation, movement

On May 19, Gov. Kitzhaber’s education restructuring bill, SB 909 passed out of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education. The bill had been the subject of a public hearing on May 17 that ran over the time allotted so the committee continued discussion of the legislation at its Thursday morning meeting before ultimately passing it. The legislation now awaits deliberation in the full Joint Ways and Means Committee.

(Continued on page 6)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Eugene voters split on schools measures, metro area incumbents re-elected

On May 17, Lane County voters decided a number of local ballot measures as well as local boards and special district directors. Voters defeated City of Eugene ballot measure 20-182 that would have instituted a city-wide personal income tax to fund Eugene 4J and Bethel School District schools.

(Continued on page 6)

FEDERAL RELATIONS

DREAM Act Reintroduced

On May 11, versions of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) act were reintroduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, less than twenty-four hours after President Obama called on Congress to take steps forward on a comprehensive immigration reform bill that would put the nation’s eleven million undocumented immigrants on a pathway toward citizenship. The DREAM Act provides a route to citizenship for current college students and military enlistees who were brought to the U.S. as dependent children, through no fault of their own. Under the proposed law, to receive citizenship, applicants must have come to the U.S. as children, be long-term residents, graduate from

(Continued on page 6)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Economists have optimistic forecast.....	2
SUNA neighbors receive award.....	2
UO supports tuition equity in House.....	3
Community bids Linton farewell.....	3
Campus policing gets support.....	4
Professor honored with NAS membership.....	4
UO turns out for legislative town halls.....	5
Uncertainty ahead for Title VI.....	5

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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STATE RELATIONS

Revenue Forecast optimistic

In a joint meeting of the Oregon Senate Finance and Revenue Committee and House Revenue Committee on May 12, the state economist released the June Economic Forecast.

The tone was one of cautious optimism. In total, the state general fund is now projected to collect \$49 million less than was estimated in the March forecast, with newly planned administrative cost savings leading to a total additional \$15 million deficit over the projections from March.

State Economist, Tom Potiowsky, remarked that Oregon, like the nation as a whole, continues a slow recovery that will eventually lead to additional jobs and state revenues, but continues to face major budget shortfalls. According to Potiowsky, Oregon has seen surging job growth in recent months, particularly in population centers, and unemployment in Oregon is beginning to approach national averages. Oregon had the 7th fastest job growth of the 50 states for the month of March, and on a year-over-year basis, job growth in Oregon is at 1.8%, the strongest quarterly job growth since the fourth quarter of 2007.

The state is seeing strong increases in personal income tax receipts, and some increase in corporate income tax and capital gains receipts. However, economists expect corporate tax collections to fall off as the strengthening economy leads businesses to invest in capital and hire workers, which will decrease profits.

In the long term, economists are concerned about the impacts of retiring baby boomers and subsequent downward pressure on state income tax receipts.

As opposed to recent economic recoveries, the Office of Economic Analysis expects a steady recovery over the coming four years. While this means a slower total recovery, they expect increased stability, and when the economy eventually enters recession, economists expect it to be less deep than the current recession.

The PowerPoint slides that accompanied the state economist's presentation can be found [HERE](#), and the full May 2011 Economic and Revenue Forecast can be read [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

SUNA is Neighborhood of the Year

On May 19, Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy awarded the City of Eugene Neighborhood of the Year honor to the South University Neighbors Association (SUNA) for their work on campus neighborhood livability issues. SUNA's efforts were described as innovative and a model for other neighborhoods to emulate.

SUNA was recognized for its organization of the March 2010 Neighborhood Livability Summit, and participation in the Neighborhood Livability Work Group. UO participants in this monthly work group include staff from the Office of the Dean of Students, the Department of Public Safety, the Office of Government and Community Relations, and students from the CommUniversity Resource Assistant program.

SUNA's leadership is part of an ongoing collaborative neighborhood livability effort by neighbors, the UO, the City of Eugene, property owners and managers, and students.



STATE RELATIONS

Lariviere offers testimony in support of tuition equity bill

University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere joined ASUO President-elect Ben Eckstein in submitting written testimony supporting Senate Bill 742 that would consider certain students to be residents for the purpose of determining tuition and fees at Oregon public universities.

SB 742 would allow undocumented students who have been in the country at least five years and in Oregon at least three to pay resident tuition rates at the state's seven public universities. Students would have to demonstrate that they are actively working toward U.S. citizenship to qualify for the lower tuition. Ten other states, including Washington and California, have passed similar laws.

Lariviere had previously signed a letter with Oregon State University President Ed Ray and Portland State University President Wim Wiewel, urging passage of the bill in the Oregon Senate.

SB 742 passed the Oregon State Senate with a vote of 18 in favor and 11 opposed. The bill is currently under consideration by the Oregon House of Representative and received a hearing in the Committee on Rules on May 11. The bill can be tracked [here](#).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Dignitaries help in bidding Rich Linton farewell

On May 3 community leaders and elected officials joined university faculty and staff gathered to honor Vice President for Research [Richard W. Linton](#), who will step down this June after over 10 years of service to the University of Oregon.

Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and Lane Metro Partnership CEO Jack Roberts praised Linton's work at the UO in a ceremony that also included speeches from University President Richard Lariviere, University Provost Jim Bean, and a host of university faculty and staff.



Mayor Piercy praises Rich Linton (right) as Provost James Bean (center) looks on.

Congressman Peter DeFazio's district director Karmen Fore read remarks included in the Congressional Record lauding Linton's record of accomplishment.

Linton joined the UO in 2000. He previously served as chief research and international programs officer for the University of North Carolina System and as a chemistry professor at UNC-Chapel Hill. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1973 from the University of Delaware and a doctorate in chemistry in 1977 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



STATE RELATIONS

Variety of stakeholders testify on campus policing

At a hearing of the Oregon House Judiciary Committee on Thursday, May 10, a variety of education and law enforcement stakeholders turned out to provide testimony in support of SB 405, which would allow the UO Department of Public Safety (UODPS) to transition to a sworn police department.

Testimony began with explanations of the legislation from State Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-North Douglas and South Lane Counties), Frances Dyke, Vice President for Finance and Administration, and Doug Tripp, Chief and Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety. They were followed by testimony from Lane County, the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, and Chief Pete Kerns of the Eugene Police Department. All indicated that they saw an opportunity for improved service delivery, greater efficiency, and safer operations.

A number of parents, students, and campus area neighbors also made the trip in order to share their support.

ASUO President Amelie Rousseau and two other students testified in opposition.

SB 405 has been scheduled for a Work Session on Tuesday, May 24. It is then expected the legislation will be moved to the full House floor for a vote.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

UO Faculty honored with membership in National Academy of Sciences

University of Oregon chemist Geraldine "Geri" Richmond is among 72 U.S. scientists elected into membership of the National Academy of Sciences. Richmond joins six other UO faculty among the academy's current roster of 2,000 active members.

Membership in the NAS is one of the highest honors given to a scientist or



engineer in the United States. The new members will be inducted into the academy next April during its 149th annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Richmond

Established in 1863 by an Act of Congress and signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln, the academy has served to "investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art" whenever called upon to do so by any department of the government.

[Read more about Richmond](#)



STATE RELATIONS

Area legislators hold town halls; UO has strong presence

Area state legislators held a series of town hall meetings with the public in recent weeks to talk about everything from transportation to the state budget. A number of UO advocates attended the town halls, urging support for SB 405, the campus policing legislation, the New Partnership, and funding of the Erb Memorial Union (EMU) and Student Recreation Center (SRC) renovation and expansion.



Ways and Means Co-Chair Peter Buckley (D-Ashland) joins Lane County area legislators in Eugene to discuss the state budget

A capacity crowd filled an auditorium at Lane Community College for a town hall on May 5, with Co-Speaker of the House Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) and Ways and Means Co-Chair Peter Buckley (D-Ashland) joining every Eugene-Springfield area legislator to listen to state budget concerns.

Several UO students and a local business owner stated their concerns with high tuition costs, and urged the legislature to help future students attend college by passing the New Partnership in 2012.

FEDERAL RELATIONS

Uncertainty ahead for Title VI, International Programs Funding

Due to language accompanying the recently-passed 2011 budget bill, funding is unsettled for international education programs, including foreign language and area studies programs, Title VI of the Higher Education Act. The suggested cuts came despite a long tradition of maintaining funding for strategic language programs as a way to keep the U.S. globally competitive.

For the past decade, programs dealing with strategic languages and regions have enjoyed bipartisan support and steadily increasing federal dollars. Last week, the U.S. Department of Education sustained the suggested cuts.

The University of Oregon strongly opposed cuts to Title VI programs. In 2002, the UO's Center for Applied Second Language Studies (CASLS) program won one of fourteen Title VI National Foreign Language Resource Center grants, a reflection of the language center's special expertise.

Last year, the UO won a \$1.8 million Title VI grant to form a National Resource Center (NRC) for East Asian Studies in its Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS). In addition, the UO has several pending applications for NRCs and Title VI research funding. Title VI funding has allowed the UO to enhance our international curriculum and offer Oregon students more opportunities.



Education reform

(Continued from page 1)

SB 909 is the Governor’s proposal to create a task force to work on the creation of an education investment board. The investment board would coordinate funding of public education in Oregon, working to create a seamless education system from pre-kindergarten through public universities.

Most testimony for the bill was positive, though several legislators wanted to understand in greater detail the coordinating board’s specific charge, and others wanted to be sure there would not be duplicated oversight. Many agreed that SB 909 is an important first step in meaningful higher education reform.

SB 242, the higher education bill, put forward by the Interim Higher Education Task Force, Chaired by UO graduate Sen. Mark Hass (D-Beaverton) that also aims to restructure the higher education is also currently in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education. The legislation had a public hearing on May 13 and is on the committee’s agenda again for Tuesday, May 24.

Advocacy for SB 559 and SJR 20, the New Partnership, continues with a focus on passing the bill in the 2012 legislative session.

The UO has aligned efforts with the Governor’s office to work for passage of SB 909.

DREAM

(Continued from page 1)

high school or obtain a GED, and complete two years of college or military service in good standing.

The Senate bill was introduced last week by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and cosponsored by 30 other Senators, including Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley. The House bill was introduced by Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). In the 111th Congress, the DREAM Act passed the House and received a bipartisan majority vote from 55 Senators but ultimately failed to gain the 60 votes necessary to avoid a filibuster.

Many studies have pointed to the potential benefits of the DREAM Act. The Defense Department's FY 2010-12 Strategic Plan includes the DREAM Act as a means to help "shape and maintain a mission-ready All Volunteer Force," and a UCLA study concluded that DREAM Act participants could contribute \$1.4-\$3.6 trillion to the U.S. economy during their working lives. The DREAM act has been introduced in every Congress since 2001 but has failed to pass.

May election

(Continued from page 1)

However Eugene school district voters overwhelmingly passed measure 20-18, a bond measure to aid in the renovations and construction of new education facilities.

The full results of the election are available [here](#).