

March 1, 2019

Dear professor:

I'd like to share information about UO Day at the Capitol, UO's lobby day in Salem taking place this legislative session on Wednesday, May 8. We believe this is a valuable educational experience for your students who may miss your class on this day. Advocacy from students is not only an important experience in the democratic process, but it also has real impacts on access, affordability, and excellence of the University of Oregon.

The University of Oregon's primary objective during the 2019 Oregon legislative session is to keep tuition increases as minimal as possible by securing increased funding from the state for public higher education institutions. If state funding remains flat, which is what the Governor recommended in her base budget, the UO will be forced to consider double digit tuition increases, deep cuts to services, or both.

We recruit student leaders who have an interest and stake in advocating for increased funding for the UO. When students take time to go to Salem and lobby lawmakers and other key stakeholders, they gain and apply real-world skills and knowledge, including diplomacy, negotiation, and government and democratic processes.

From the perspective of the Office Government and Community Relations at the UO, we know that the lawmakers who determine our funding allocation from the state find the stories and requests of current students deeply compelling and persuasive, more so than when hearing from our administrative leaders. The presence of UO students in the Capitol reflects well upon the university and confirms how increased funding will impact student success, research, and the State of Oregon for years to come.

We hope you will consider the absence of these students from your class on May 8 as a worthwhile educational opportunity and a benefit to our university community.

Thank you for all you do to educate and support UO students. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.



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