FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

PSU Signs MOU with Smithsonian

President Wiewel and Associate Vice President for Research Mark Sytsma traveled to Washington, D.C. recently to sign an important Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Smithsonian Institution, a world-class research organization. The agreement is based on a partnership between PSU and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) that began in 2004.

The agreement focuses on a “broad-based understanding of biological invasions by taking advantage of opportunities for comparative research between freshwater and marine systems, and across geographic regions (e.g., eastern and western North America), that result from the combined expertise, activities, and locations of SERC and PSU."

We were very proud that Congressman Earl Blumenauer was also able to attend along with Smithsonian officials. The Congressman said “the connection for Portland State, it’s another indication of the capacity, the respect for the institution”. You can view an Oregonian article about the event here.

LOCAL UPDATE

Mark your calendars

The Education Urban Renewal Area (EDURA) proposal has some important dates in April and May that we would like to announce:

- **April 11th** from 3-5 PM
  Portland Development Commission Approval

- **April 24th** from 6-9 PM
  Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission Approval

- **May 9th** from 2-3:30 PM
  Portland City Council Testimony

- **May 16th**, Time TBA
  Portland City Council Approval

All these events for the EDURA are open to the public. We are working towards final passage on May 16th in front of the Portland City Council. In addition, PSU was pleased to see positive support recently from Chair Jeff Cogen and Commissioner Nick Fish.
Rep. Lew Frederick Visits the Advocates

Oregon State Representative Lew Frederick visited with the PSU Advocates on Tuesday, March 13th at the Simon Benson House. Rep. Frederick highlighted higher education issues that were advanced during the session and other legislative priorities, including: economic development, assistance for homeowners facing foreclosure, and health care reform.

Representative Frederick has served North and Northeast Portland since October 30th, 2009. He serves as co-Vice-Chair of the House Education and Human Services Committees, and on the Joint Committee on Legislative Audits and Information Management and Technology.

Professionally he is a Strategic Communications Consultant, focusing on strategic planning, community relations, science/technical issues and media crisis communications. His professional life includes seventeen years as a television reporter at KGW-Channel 8 in Portland, thirteen years as the Director of Public Information for Portland Public Schools, and time as a teacher, actor and ranch-hand.

He’s a PhD candidate at Portland State University and has studied at MIT, Morehouse, and the Woods Hole Marine Biology Laboratories. He has an academic background in biology, theater, and political science. He is a former board member of the Oregon State Board of Education and presently serves on the boards of Geneforum and the Oregon Bus Project.

Representative Frederick has a strong history of supporting higher education and advocating for student financial aid. He supported SB 242 in 2011 and HB 4061 (special committee on university governance) in 2012.

Interested in Government Relations? Join The Advocates! The Advocates are the government relations committee of the PSU Alumni Board. They will host their next meeting on Tuesday, April 10th at 5:00 PM at the Simon Benson House. Mary Moller will present information about the proposed Education Urban Renewal District for PSU.

Want more information about The Advocates? Contact Al Fitzpatrick, Chair, at fitzalka@comcast.net or visit their website here.

Gerry Scovil '65, former PSU Board President, and Al Fitzpatrick '84 MEd, Chair of the PSU Advocates with President Wim Wiewel
SAVE THE DATE
Mark Your Calendars

Legislative Days
May 2012
PSU is planning to visit legislators during May Legislative Days at the State Capitol. Legislative Days are a series of days where legislators gather at the Capitol to convene interim committees. The House Higher Education Committee is expected to meet and the Special Committee on University Governance may also convene.

PSU faculty, students, alumni, and staff will meet with legislators concerning our upcoming 2013 capital construction project requests, university governance, and budget issues. May Legislative Days will be held May 21st – 23rd. You can find the official 2012 Legislative calendar here to see additional dates for other upcoming Legislative events.

DAY AT THE CAPITOL
2013
This February, PSU made quite a splash at the State Capitol, when over 140 students, faculty, staff, and alumni made our annual visit. We have already started planning for our 2013 visit which will be on Wednesday, March 6th, 2013.

Special Committee on University Governance

During the February session, the Legislature passed HB 4061, to create a 10-member special committee on university governance. The special committee is charged with reviewing, discussing and analyzing issues of governance within the higher education system.

The committee is required to begin work no later than April 15, 2012, and to complete a first draft of its recommendations and report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education by August 15, 2012. The committee must allow 30 days for public comment on the first draft. The special committee is required to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2012.

The Senate has appointed Senator Lee Beyer (D-Springfield), Senator Fred Girod (R-Stayton), Senator Mark Hass (D-Beaverton), and Senator Frank Morse (R-Albany, Corvallis) to the committee. The House has yet to appoint Representatives to the committee. The Governor must also appoint two members from the Oregon Education Investment Board to the committee.

If you are interested in attending either the 2012 May Legislative Days or the 2013 PSU Day at the Capitol, please contact Debbie Koreski.

The Advocates and PSU Students meet with Senator Chip Shields, ’03 MSW in his office at the Capitol during the 2012 PSU Day at the Capitol. Senator Shields represents North Portland.
**Way to Go Vikings!**

Our visit to the Capitol continues to make an impact here at PSU! The Athletics Department has learned that although state support for student athletics was reduced, those reductions will only be limited to UO and OSU. PSU student athletes will be protected from such reductions.

J.R. Tarabocchia submitted the following picture of the Student Ambassadors at the Capitol for PSU’s “Oregon is Our Classroom” campaign.

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**2012 Election**

March 6th marked the deadline for candidates to file for the upcoming May primary election. Several PSU alumni have filed to run for local and state positions.

A complete listing of candidates can be found by clicking here to visit the Oregon Secretary of State’s website. The Oregonian also covered the candidate filings. Their coverage can be found here.

**Important 2012 Election Dates:**

- **Tuesday, April 24th**: Deadline to register to vote for the primary election.
- **Tuesday, May 15th**: Oregon’s primary election.
- **Tuesday, November 6th**: Oregon’s general election

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**CONTACT US**

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