EDUCATION URBAN RENEWAL AREA (EDURA) APPROVED

The Education Urban Renewal Area (EDURA) was passed by the Portland City Council on May 16th with a 3 to 1 vote with Commissioner Fritz voting no. The EDURA will bring over $50 million to PSU to improve and expand much needed infrastructure. Upcoming projects will include the School of Business expansion, Neuberger Hall redevelopment, and expansion of science facilities.

The EDURA is one of many long-term funding tools that will help PSU continue to accelerate the region's growth and excellence. The area is 144 acres in and around the Portland State University District, including Lincoln High School, and will take effect in June, 30 days after the Council passage.

"This is a testament to the partnership we have with the city and the county," said Wim Wiewel, president of PSU. "They recognize that a great city needs a great university and today the council cast their votes to help make that happen. This is a long-term investment in education and economic development. I look forward to working with the city council, PDC, and the county commissioners in continuing to serve the growing needs of our region."

Click here to see a map of the EDURA.
Last week, legislators once again gathered in Salem for interim committee meetings. PSU was at the Capitol to talk with members about the university’s need for significant state investment in capital construction projects to meet student enrollment growth.

Three teams visited with legislators to talk about the university’s capital construction requests for the 2013-15 biennium. On Monday, Ron Adams, Bill Walker, and Al Fitzpatrick from The Advocates visited with PSU alumni in the House and Senate. Monica Rimai and Dan Zalkow from PSU’s Finance and Administration Department came to the Capitol on Tuesday and met with leadership staff and members of the budget committee. President Wim Wiewel closed out the visit on Wednesday by meeting with members of the Special Committee on University Governance.

PSU is proposing six projects for a total cost of $167 million. Projects include significant renovations and additions to the School of Business and the Viking Pavilion. Neuberger Hall will receive a complete systems overhaul including plumbing, HVAC, seismic, and other structural improvements. PSU is also seeking approval for the potential purchase of the City Tower building next to the Maseeh College of Engineering. PSU’s School of Business is currently ranked as the top capital construction request for the Oregon University System.

Our visits went well and we were asked many questions during our visits. Legislators recognize the need for state investment at the PSU campus and seemed initially supportive of our requests. During these times of scarce resources and legislative skepticism about increasing Oregon’s debt level, it is important that PSU educate lawmakers about the urgent and desperate need for additional class space to meet the region’s educational demands.
Federal Student Loan Interest Rate Set to Double on July 1st

Without government action, the interest rate on some subsidized federal student loans is set to double from 3.4% to 6.8% on July 1st. The US Senate and House are currently debating multiple bills that would pay for the $6 billion necessary to keep the loans at their current rate for another year. According to the White House, preventing such an increase would save 7 million college students an average of $1,000 over the life of their loans.

Both parties have expressed a desire to prevent an increase, but have been unable to agree on how to pay for it. Republicans have proposed pulling the money from a preventative health care fund in the Affordable Care Act, while Democrats plan to pick up the tab by closing a payroll-tax loophole for Subchapter S Corporations. Recent votes in both chambers show the difficulty in finding common ground. On Thursday, May 24th, both parties rejected competing proposals in the Senate, largely along party lines.

Given an enhanced level of media attention and public interest in this topic, further legislative action is expected before the June 29th deadline.

Thursday, May 3, 2012 - Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR 1) hosts a town hall for PSU students and faculty about the importance of federally funded student financial aid and the proposed interest rate changes.
Top: Tuesday, May 1, 2012 - Congressman Kurt Schrader (D-OR 5) visits with staff and students at the Native American Student and Community Center. Bottom Left: Wednesday, May 2, 2012 - Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) visits with President Wim Wiewel and entrepreneurs and the Portland State Business Accelerator to promote crowd funding, a new way for startup businesses to raise capital. Bottom Right: Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR 4) was a guest professor in Doctor Richard Clucas’ political science class to talk about the politics of Congress.
President Wim Wiewel participates in the April 20th meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee.

**PRESIDENT MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSTITUTIONAL BOARDS**

On Thursday, May 10th, President Wim Wiewel testified in front of the Special Committee on University Governance at the Capitol. President Wiewel was preceded by Bob Berdahl, Interim President at UO. Each president made their case for an institutional board to govern their respective university.

President Wiewel told the committee that an institutional board for PSU would help the university better fulfill its state mission of increasing access to higher education for the metropolitan region while also continuing to develop programs of excellence. He also stated that an institutional board would provide powerful PSU focused advocates that could help with additional revenue sources such as philanthropy. He then outlined his recommendations for the board’s powers, appointments, and responsibilities.

President Wiewel continues to meet with several key legislators to explain the need for a PSU governing board. President’s Wiewel’s presentation to the committee can be found [here](#).

**STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROPOSES INSTITUTIONAL BOARDS**

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education met on Friday, June 1st to adopt the Governance and Policy Committee’s recommendations about implementing institutional boards for Oregon’s universities. The recommendations closely align with those of President Wiewel with a few exceptions. President Wiewel is recommending a board that assumes more responsibility for overseeing the PSU president, planning of the university’s capital, and managing the university’s finances. The Board’s recommendations can be found starting on page 37 [here](#).
Events and Happenings

2012 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, October 16th Voter Registration Deadline
- October 19th -23rd In State Ballots Mailed
- Tuesday, November 6th Oregon’s general election

Save The Date

Legislative Days

September 2012

PSU is planning to visit legislators during September 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 the recommendations from the Special Committee on University Governance. September Legislative Days will be Wednesday, September 12 – Friday September 14. You can find the official 2012 Legislative calendar here to see additional dates for other upcoming Legislative events.

Contact Us

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Join The Advocates!

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, May 8th, 5:00 PM

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

Of the 90 members of the Oregon Legislature, nine hold degrees from PSU, two are current PhD candidates, one is an EdD candidate, two are former faculty or staff, and two represent PSU in their home districts.

Representative Jeff Barker
D-Aloha, District 28
‘69 BS History

Capitol Address:
900 Court St. NE, H-491
Salem, OR 97301
Capitol Phone:
503-986-1428
Rep.jeffbarker@state.or.us

Representative Deborah Boone
D-Cannon Beach, District 32
‘79 – BS Psychology, Art, and Painting

Capitol Address:
900 Court St. NE, H-375
Salem, OR 97301
Capitol Phone:
503-986-1432
Rep.deborahboone@state.or.us

Senate President Pro Tempore Ginny Burdick
D-Portland, District 18
PSU Home District Legislator in Senate

Capitol Address:
900 Court St. NE, S-213
Salem, OR 97301
Capitol Phone:
503-986-1718
Sen.ginnyburdick@state.or.us

Senator Richard Devlin
D-Tualatin, District 19
‘76 BS Administration of Justice

Capitol Address:
900 Court St. NE, S-209
Salem, OR 97301
Capitol Phone:
503-986-1719
Sen.richarddevlin@state.or.us
Of the 90 members of the Oregon Legislature, nine hold degrees from PSU, two are current PhD candidates, one is an EdD candidate, two are former faculty or staff, and two represent PSU in their home districts.

**Senator Jackie Dingfelder**  
**D-Portland, District 23**  
PhD Candidate – Public Policy and Administration  
*Capitol Address:*  
900 Court St. NE, S-407  
Salem, OR 97301  
*Capitol Phone:*  
503-986-1723  
*Sen.jackiedingfelder@state.or.us*

**Representative Margaret Doherty**  
**D-Tigard, District 35**  
’73 – BS Speech Communication  
*Capitol Address:*  
900 Court St. NE, H-282  
Salem, OR 97301  
*Capitol Phone:*  
503-986-1435  
*Rep.margaretdoherty@state.or.us*

**Representative Lew Frederick**  
**D-Portland, District 43**  
PhD Candidate – Urban Affairs, Communication  
*Capitol Address:*  
900 Court St. NE, H-276  
Salem, OR 97301  
*Capitol Phone:*  
503-986-1443  
*Rep.lewfrederick@state.or.us*

**Representative Mitch Greenlick**  
**D-Portland, District 33**  
Adjunct Professor, Sociology and Social Work  
*Capitol Address:*  
900 Court St. NE, H-492  
Salem, OR 97301  
*Capitol Phone:*  
503-986-1433  
*Rep.mitchgreenlick@state.or.us*
PSU IN THE CAPITOL – PAGE 3

Of the 90 members of the Oregon Legislature, nine hold degrees from PSU, two are current PhD candidates, one is an EdD candidate, two are former faculty or staff, and two represent PSU in their home districts.

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer  
D-Portland, District 46  
Former Oregon Solutions Program Manager

Capitol Address:  
900 Court St. NE, H-484  
Salem, OR 97301  
Capitol Phone:  
503-986-1446  
rep.alissakenyguyer@state.or.us

Representative Betty Komp  
D-Woodburn, District 22  
EdD Candidate, Continuing Administrator License

Capitol Address:  
900 Court St. NE, H-273  
Salem, OR 97301  
Capitol Phone:  
503-986-1422  
Rep.bettykomp@state.or.us

Senator Rod Monroe  
D – Portland, District 24  
‘66 – BS History; ’68 BS Elementary Education; ’69 MS Teaching, History

Capitol Address:  
900 Court St. NE, S-409  
Salem, OR 97301  
Capitol Phone:  
503-986-1724  
Sen.rodmonroe@state.or.us

Representative Mary Nolan  
D-Portland, District 36  
PSU Home District Legislator in House

Capitol Address:  
900 Court St. NE, H-493  
Salem, OR 97301  
Capitol Phone:  
503-986-1436  
Rep.marynolan@state.or.us
Of the 90 members of the Oregon Legislature, nine hold degrees from PSU, two are current PhD candidates, one is an EdD candidate, two are former faculty or staff, and two represent PSU in their home districts.

**Senator Chip Shields**  
*D-Portland, District 22*  
’03 – Master of Social Work

**Capitol Address:**  
900 Court St. NE, S-421  
Salem, OR 97301  
**Capitol Phone:**  
503-986-1722  
Sen.chipshields@state.or.us

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**Senator Bruce Starr**  
*R-Hillsboro, District 15*  
’91 – BS Political Science

**Capitol Address:**  
900 Court St. NE, S-411  
Salem, OR 97301  
**Capitol Phone:**  
503-986-1715  
Sen.brucestarr@state.or.us

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**Representative Carolyn Tomei**  
*D-Milwaukie, District 41*  
’71 – BS Psychology; ’73 – Master of Social Work

**Capitol Address:**  
900 Court St. NE, H-279  
Salem, OR 97301  
**Capitol Phone:**  
503-986-1441  
Rep.carolyntomei@state.or.us

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**Representative Matt Wand**  
*R-Troutdale, District 49*  
’97 BS – Political Science

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