

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

PSU DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2013



Portland State was highlighted at the Oregon State Capitol on Wednesday, March 6, as legislators and their staff spoke with representatives of PSU about key issues concerning the school. Over 150 alumni, faculty, staff and students participated, covering topics ranging from higher education funding to university governance.

The PSU pep band, Viking cheerleaders and Victor Viking greeted everyone outside the Capitol steps, treating them all to coffee and Voodoo Donuts.



As each chamber opened their floor sessions, PSU representatives were present in the galleries, as well as on the floor with the legislators. The PSU chamber choir sang for the Senate, while the PSU Greenote *a capella* group performed for the House. Victor Viking also greeted each chamber before official business began.

Lunch was held at the Salem Conference Center, where Professor Richard Clucas of the Hatfield School of Government moderated a discussion with Senators Mark Hass and Richard Devlin. The senators discussed topics that included the hurdles in securing more funding for higher education, Oregon's 40-40-20 plan and the issues surrounding university governance. "The lunch was incredibly informative. Each senator really broke down the issues and explained them in ways that anyone could understand," commented one attendee.

After lunch, participants broke into teams and met with their legislators. Specific topics discussed included tuition equity, funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, sports action lottery funding, university governance and PSU's capital projects. The Co-Chairs' budget included the continuation of the Sports Action lottery funding – funding that supports women and minority athletic scholarships in particular. While participants were openly thankful for that decision, they continued to reinforce the urgency for more financial assistance for students.



Directly above: Al Fitzpatrick, Chair of the PSU Advocates, addresses the participants of PSU Day.

Top left: Rep. Chris Gorsek (PSU alumnus), and just below, Speaker of the House Tina Kotek pose for a picture with Victor Viking during the welcoming session outside the Capitol.

Said one student, "I feel it's important to share our stories with our elected officials so that they can have a face behind the effects of their decisions." Another participant applauded the reception PSU received, saying, "All of the legislators and their staffs were incredibly welcoming and engaging with our team."

"This is democracy," said another student, "and it's awesome."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 8, 2013

President Obama's Fiscal Year 14 Budget Release

April 19, 2013

College and University President Immigration Reform Day of Action

May 16, 2013

State Economic Forecast from the Office of Economic Analysis

STATE RELATIONS

Tuition Equity Update

HB 2787 would allow certain undocumented graduates of Oregon high schools to pay in-state tuition at Oregon universities. In order to qualify, students must have studied in the United States for five years and attended an Oregon high school for at least three years. These students must also show intention to apply for citizenship to the United States. The bill passed the Oregon House of Representatives with a vote of 38 – 18.

On Tuesday, March 19, the Oregon Senate Committee on Education and Work Force Development held a public hearing and work session on HB 2787. The bill was passed out of committee and a vote was held in the Oregon Senate on Thursday, March 21. The bill passed the Oregon Senate with a vote of 19 – 11. The Senate had previously passed similar legislation in 2003 and 2011. The bill now moves to the Governor's desk to be signed into law.



Left:
Rep. Jennifer Williamson with PSU student Victor Mena after HB 2787 passed the House.



Members of the Oregon Commission on Public Safety (left to right): Collette Peters, Rep. Andy Olson, Rep. Chris Garrett, John Foote and Justice Paul De Muniz, discussed the sentencing changes the commission prepared. Peter Bhatia, Editor of *The Oregonian*, moderated the discussion (Photo courtesy of *The Oregonian*). Above, community members participate in interactive polling on public safety and criminal justice topics.

Portland State Convened: Public Safety Recap

On Tuesday, March 12, Portland State University and *The Oregonian* held a forum on the future of criminal justice and public safety in Oregon. The forum was moderated by Peter Bhatia, editor of *The Oregonian*. There were five panelists who all served on the [Oregon Commission on Public Safety](#): Paul de Muniz, retired Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court (PSU Alumnus); John Foote, Clackamas County District Attorney; Representative Chris Garrett, D-Lake Oswego, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Safety; Representative Andy Olson, R-Albany, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Safety; and Colette Peters, Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections. Audience members participated in flash poll exercises throughout the forum with remote electronic devices used to gauge the response to different aspects of the commission's proposal.

The Legislature is considering several pieces of legislation as a result of the commission's work. HB 3194 includes the [proposals recommended](#) by the commission. Clackamas County DA John Foote submitted an [alternative report](#) as a representative of the District Attorneys Association. These alternative proposals are included in HB 3195. The reforms proposed in both HB 3194 and HB 3195 will allow the state to save money and invest some of the savings in local community-based programs such as drug courts. Both bills are in the Joint Committee on Public Safety, which has ten members, five Republicans and five Democrats. Passing any of these legislative changes into law would require a supermajority (two-thirds each) of the Oregon House of Representatives and the Oregon Senate. Informational hearings have begun on both bills.



STATE RELATIONS 2013 Legislative Updates

Operating and Capital Budgets

SB 5535 – The Governor proposed \$737 million for Oregon’s seven universities for the 2013-15 biennium. Although this is an increase from the 2011-13 funding levels, it is insufficient to prevent tuition increases for PSU students. It also will not provide adequate funds to hire more tenured faculty, help students graduate on time, and keep PSU on track to achieve the state’s 40-40-20 goal.

UPDATE: *On March 4, the Co-Chairs of Ways and Means, the state’s powerful budget committee, released a budget that restored the Sports Action Lottery scholarship funding – funding which PSU uses for 126 student athlete scholarships that primarily benefit women and minorities. On Wednesday, March 27, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education held a public hearing on funding for higher education. A group of PSU students and alumni were present to advocate on behalf of PSU and additional funding for higher education. (The bill discussed in regards to the OUS budget was HB 5301.)*

SB 5506 - PSU has requested bonding authority for three projects.

•*School of Business:*

This renovation and expansion of the School of Business includes 11 classrooms and a new auditorium. PSU’s MBA program has become a national leader and this new facility will accommodate a growing student body and the school’s centers of excellence. The Graduate School of Education, which is housed in the existing building, is expected to relocate to Neuberger Hall.



Prospective view of the renovated and expanded School of Business.

•*Stott Educational Center/Viking Pavilion:*

PSU’s 30,000 student body is in desperate need of large event and study space. The renovation and expansion of the Stott Center will address both of these needs by creating a 5,000 seat multi-use event space and 36,000 square feet of academic and student study space. The current Stott Center is in need of \$16 million of deferred maintenance. The leaky roof has forced the cancellation of 73 classes during the past two years. PSU’s generous private donors will commit \$20 million to this project to match the state’s contribution dollar for dollar.

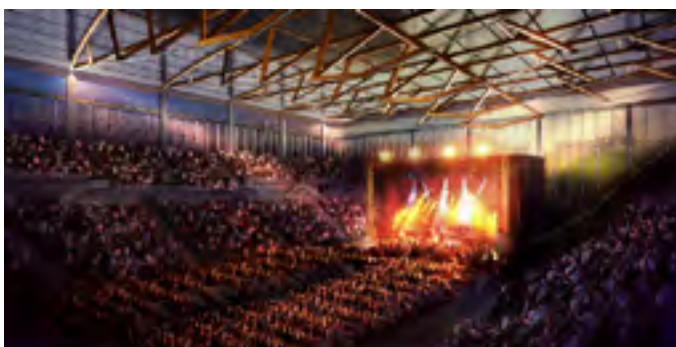


Prospective view from the park blocks of the renovated and expanded Stott Educational Center and Viking Pavilion.

UPDATE: *The School of Business renovation and expansion is currently included in the capital construction budget. PSU has sent a letter to the Ways and Means Co-Chairs requesting that the Stott Educational Center be added to the list of capital construction projects.*



A preview of some of the 36,000 new square feet of student study space in the upgraded Stott Center.



The renovation and expansion of Stott Center will provide PSU with a large multi-use event space for concerts, lecture, and ceremonies.

STATE RELATIONS

Oregon Opportunity Grant

SB 5535/HB 5032 - The Oregon Opportunity Grant is Oregon's only state-funded, need-based grant program to help low and middle income Oregon residents achieve academic and career success. The governor's budget proposes approximately 63,000 awards averaging \$1,800 for the 2013-15 biennium. PSU students consistently receive the largest amount of Opportunity Grant money. During the 2011-12 academic year, 3,184 PSU students received an Opportunity Grant, but MANY more were eligible yet remained unfunded.

UPDATE: *On March 18 and 19, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission presented their budget request to the Joint Ways and Means committee. The committee focused on two major issues: 1) How funding for the opportunity grant has not kept pace with tuition increases, and 2) whether OSAC should be consolidated with other post secondary entities under the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). PSU continues to monitor the committee's work on these bills.*



Above: photos from PSU's 2012 Spring Commencement, the largest graduating class in Oregon university history.

Left: PSU President Wim Wiewel testifies before the House Higher Education Committee in regards to university governance.

University Governance

SB 270/HB 2149/HB 3120 - These bills form governing boards for Oregon's large universities and define how these new boards will interact with the state.

SB 270 and HB 2149 are focused on the powers and composition of the governing boards and the future governance structure for Oregon's smaller universities. PSU needs an institutional board that: 1) has the time and expertise to focus on PSU; 2) reflects the interests of the metropolitan region; 3) creates an education pipeline for students in the region; 4) increases "ownership" of the university by the region, and; 5) has the statutory authority to control and manage the university. This governance model offers PSU the best opportunity to succeed and help the state meet its 40-40-20 goal.

HB 3120 creates a statewide governance structure for Oregon's public universities by redefining the authorities of the existing Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). PSU believes that the new HECC should approve university mission statements and coordinate mission alignment by approving requests to offer new degrees or establish or close colleges, new schools and major academic programs. We also believe that the universities should continue with coordinated budget and capital requests.

UPDATE: *SB 270 is in the Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development. The committee continues to consider amendments that clarify the timeline for when institutional boards would become operational and refine the financial and administrative authorities of the boards.*

The House remains focused on HB 3120 and redefining the HECC so that it can assume its new role of coordinating Oregon's public universities. The committee has released a proposal that outlines the authorities of the HECC, which can be found [here](#).

PSU Accepts Fresh Air Challenge

On February 28, PSU hosted U.S. Assistant Secretary Howard Koh and Regional Health Administrator Patrick O'Carroll from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to launch the Fresh Air Campus Challenge. The challenge is an effort to encourage colleges in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region 10 (Oregon, Alaska, Idaho and Washington) to become smoke-free by 2016. This is the first DHHS region in the country to issue such a challenge.

Since 2007, PSU has had a no-smoking policy in all buildings and within a 25-foot radius of building entrances, windows and air intake vents. In January,

PSU established a clean air corridor: a five-block stretch in the heart of campus where smoking is prohibited.

Across the nation, 1,130 campuses have gone smoke-or tobacco-free. This challenge brings together college campuses and local, state and federal tobacco control programs in a unique partnership to help all institutions of higher education in Region 10 to begin the process of becoming a Fresh Air Bronze, Silver or Gold Campus. The college years are a time of increased risk of smoking initiation and transition from experimental to regular tobacco use. In fact, 99% of all regular smokers start by the age of 26 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To read more about the PSU Fresh Air Challenge, visit PSU's Vanguard [here](#). For more information on the Fresh Air Campus Challenge, you can find the official website [here](#).

Active Military Students Regain Tuition Assistance; PSU lands grant

In early March, the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps [announced](#) that they would suspend active duty tuition assistance programs indefinitely due to sequestration.

Based on PSU winter term data, the university estimated approximately 47 students would be affected, with a financial impact of approximately \$100,000. The university was dismayed as alternative funding options for military students are few and far between.

However, on March 21st, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) that would restore tuition assistance to these service members, which provides up to \$4,500 a year per student to continue their education. Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) and Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) proposed the successful amendment in the U.S. Senate.

It is important to note, however, that the Coast Guard is exempt from this amendment, thus its tuition assistance program will remain suspended. Inhofe and Hagan's provision covers only the defense budget; the Coast Guard gets its funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

In related news, PSU's Dr. Leslie Hammer, a PSU professor of psychology and an expert in occupational psychology and work and family issues, was awarded a \$5 million five-year grant to study and implement workplace training for supervisors of returning veterans. It is the first research project of its kind in the United States to implement supervisor training as part of addressing the particular needs of reintegrating veterans, with the ultimate goal of improving the workplace and keeping veterans employed. The study, which will take place completely within Oregon, is funded by a U.S. Department of Defense grant. About 1,000 veterans are enrolled at PSU – more than any other university in Oregon. Our student veterans receive \$1.8 million from the Veterans Administration for financial assistance.



Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services addressing our campus.



For more on Dr. Hammer's project, read an article from *The Oregonian* [here](#), and read and listen to OPB's coverage [here](#).

CAMPUS NEWS

PSU graduate programs ranked in 2014 US News Best Grad Schools

Four Portland State graduate programs ranked in the top 50 in their fields, and another four were included in the top 100 in the 2014 “U.S. News Best Grad Schools” guidebook, released March 12.

PSU was one of 600 institutions surveyed by U.S. News. Last year U.S. News named PSU as a top 10 “up-and-coming” national university in its Best Colleges 2013 guidebook

The ranking methodologies for the Grad School book vary by discipline, and include admissions selectivity and expert opinions on each program’s quality. For business schools, U.S. News also looked at job placement statistics and salary data.

PSU’s Hatfield School of Government ranked No. 16 in U.S. News’ City Management and Urban Policy grouping, and No. 46 in its Public Affairs category. PSU’s Graduate School of Education ranked No. 23 in the Rehabilitation Counseling category, and the School of Social Work ranked No. 33 among all social work programs in the country.

PSU also earned rankings for its graduate programs in Speech-Language Pathology (62), Industrial/Manufacturing/Systems Engineering (75), Part-time MBA (89) and Civil Engineering (90).

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PSU DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Clockwise from top: Speaker of the House Tina Kotek greets Victor Viking during our morning welcome to PSU Day at the Capitol; Rep. Margaret Doherty (PSU Alumna) poses with Victor Viking at our PSU photobooth; Ron Adams (PSU Advocate) works on his putting technique with the PSU Women’s golf team; and Rep. Jennifer Williamson, whose district includes PSU, shows her Viking pride at the photobooth.



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