

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

## PSU AT THE CAPITOL TRAINING DAY:

### A SUCCESS FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND THE PSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Smith Memorial Student Union was full of eager citizen activists recently when the PSU Alumni Association hosted a training day for our upcoming PSU Day at the Capitol. Students, faculty, and alumni all gathered to sharpen their skills as influential activists. PSU Day at the Capitol is the day to make our presence felt, showing pride, spirit, and a commitment to making our university and Oregon higher education the best we can.

The Alumni Association and Government Relations hosted guests to train our volunteers. John Wykoff, PSU alumnus and Legislative Director for the Oregon Community College Association, former State Representative Ron Adams, and our own Mary Moller took part in a lobby-training panel moderated by Professor Richard Clucas from the PSU Department of Political Science.



The day also included Rep. Michael Dembrow, Chair of the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, providing detailed insight into the committee's agenda for the upcoming session.

Throughout lunch, Rep. Dembrow was joined by his colleagues— Senator Rod Monroe, Senator Chip Shields, Rep. Margaret Doherty, Rep. Lew Frederick, Rep. Joe Gallegos, Rep. Chris Gorsek, Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, Rep. Betty Komp, and Rep. Jennifer Williamson – in hosting a table. Participants worked through conversations, tips, hypothetical scenarios, and general advice on how best to approach our efforts with the Legislature.

The day's training also included PSU President Wim Wiewel discussing university governance; Vice President of Finance and Administration Monica Rimai discussing capital projects and university operating budget requests; and ASPSU Student Body President Tiffany Dollar and ASPSU Director of Legislative Affairs David Coburn giving an information session on tuition equity, the Oregon Opportunity Grant and top PSU student priorities for the 2013 session.

The highlight of the day was President Wiewel's honoring of long-time PSU Advocate Joan Johnson. Joan was awarded a special certificate of appreciation for her years of dedication to advocacy for our university. More on that award can be found below.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

February 4  
Legislative Committees Begin  
February 12  
President Obama's  
State of the Union Address  
March 6  
PSU Day at the Capitol



Above left: Rep. Jennifer Williamson shares lunch with students, staff and alumni while discussing issues of the upcoming legislative session. Bottom left: PSU Advocate Al Fitzpatrick - training day host - asks students among the crowd to acknowledge themselves by raising their hands. Bottom right: President Wiewel discusses university governance.



**PSU ADVOCATE JOAN JOHNSON HONORED BY PRESIDENT WIEWEL**

Joan Johnson was recently honored for her tremendous efforts during more than twenty years of advocating for PSU. At our PSU Day at the Capitol Training Conference, hosted by the PSU Alumni Association, President Wim Wiewel awarded Joan with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the University.

Joan is the paramount example of the power of citizen lobbying. A tireless worker for Portland State, Joan has been described by her peers and colleagues as “committed, dedicated, determined, and persevering.” She is known as an “insightful, persuasive leader: firm-minded and a wordsmith.” As one colleague describes her, “She communicates effectively with the fewest words to get the strongest impact!” While known as “cordial, polite, and a friend to all,” she is also known as “tenacious – she is not someone to cross, and she does not take ‘no’ for an answer!”

Joan was part of the first PSU advocates group. In 1989, the University of Oregon and Oregon State University sought to divide and take over PSU, absorbing it into their programs. Joan and other alumni led a massive public relations campaign in both Portland and Salem. She met

with city leaders and state legislators, and organized letters to newspaper editors from the community at large, as well from alumni. These efforts helped save PSU and were the beginning of today’s PSU Advocates.

Other accomplishments for Joan and the PSU Advocates include:

- Securing funding for both our Engineering Building and Urban Center;
- In 1999, PSU Advocates, alumni, and students led the largest rally Salem had ever seen in support of higher education funding. The result: more funding that year for Oregon’s universities;
- In 2007, our Advocates were on the frontline of defeating Ballot Measure 41, saving important funding for Oregon’s higher education system.

The power of citizen lobbying can affect things far and wide. Joan demonstrated this yet again when, in 2008-2009, the “Made in Oregon” sign had strong support to be changed to read “University of Oregon.” Joan and the Advocates met with city commissioners and testified before the Historic Landmarks Commission and City Council. A compromise was reached, and the “Portland, Oregon” sign continues to

light our city’s skyline today.

We would like to once again thank Joan for her incredible efforts over these last twenty-plus years. We would not be where we are without you, Joan! Thank you!



**LOCAL RELATIONS**

**MAYOR HALES’ SWEARING-IN**

President Wiewel attended the swearing-in of Mayor Charlie Hales in early January. It was a positive event full of celebration, and was well attended by community members, leaders around the region and the Mayor’s city council colleagues. The Mayor laid out the top three priorities he will focus on during the first part of his term. Those include: a thorough look at the city’s budget, better public schools and improving public safety. Also in attendance was the First Lady of Portland, Nancy Hales. In addition to being the first lady, Nancy is the Director of First Stop Portland located in PSU’s College of Urban and Public Affairs. First Stop Portland organizes study tours for delegations visiting Portland.

Mayor Hales hit the ground running to control city spending when he required all city bureaus to submit budget requests with 10 percent cuts by February 4. In addition, the mayor led by example in appointing just 14 people to his staff, which is roughly half of what former Mayor Sam Adams had. Portland State looks forward to a continued strong partnership with the city of Portland and Mayor Hales.

Mayor Hales (Left) and PSU President Wim Wiewel.



# STATE RELATIONS



## PSU 2013 Legislative Priorities

On Monday, February 4, the Oregon State Legislature reconvened to consider numerous pieces of legislation including several proposals that will affect higher education and Portland State University. PSU will be taking a direct role in advocating for university governance changes, pushing for important capital improvements to our University, urging the passage of tuition equity, and fighting for funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

### UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

There are several proposals relating to university governance. PSU is specifically interested in the Governor's proposal. This proposal will create a new Department of Post-Secondary Education (DPSE) and a Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). There are also numerous legislative proposals to create institutional boards. PSU President Wim Wiewel believes PSU needs an institutional governance board to focus on the university's specific needs. He also supports strong coordinating functions at the state level to avoid unnecessary duplication and protect the interests of all Oregonians.



Last fall, PSU Advocates Roger Capps, Angela Wykoff, and Al Fitzpatrick testified in front of the Special Committee on University Governance in support of the creation of an institutional governing board for Portland State University. Their testimony focused on the benefits that a governing board would bring to PSU and the Portland metropolitan region.

### BILLS RELATED TO UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE:

- HB 2149 - Establishes institutional boards for the University of Oregon and Portland State University. Gives institutional boards certain duties, rights and powers.
- SB 278 and HB 2312 - Establishes Portland State University as an independent public university, governed by university board of directors. Directs Portland State University Board of Directors to set enrollment fees and tuition, purchase and manage property, develop contract policies and set personnel rules.
- SB 270 - Establishes institutional boards for University of Oregon and Portland State University. Gives institutional boards certain duties, rights and powers.
- SB 277 - Establishes the University of Oregon and Portland State University as independent public universities, governed by university boards of directors. Requires Oregon Education Investment Board to approve selection of university presidents for University of Oregon and Portland State University and to approve tuition and fee increases greater than five percent annually.
- SB 279 - Establishes institutional boards for University of Oregon and Portland State University. Gives institutional boards certain duties, rights and powers. Establishes process by which other universities in Oregon University System may establish institutional boards.



## CAPITAL PRIORITIES

### *School of Business*

This expansion of the School of Business will include deferred maintenance, the addition of approximately 42,000 square feet and renovations to the existing 106,000 square feet. The addition will include 11 classrooms and a new auditorium.



### *Stott Educational Center*

The Stott Center Educational Facility project will include deferred maintenance, the addition of a pavilion that seats up to 5,000 patrons, the addition of 14,000 square feet of academic support space, new student collaboration space of approximately 22,000 square feet and renovations to the existing 168,000 square feet.



### *Neuberger Hall*

The Neuberger Hall renovation will perform deferred maintenance, improve 238,000 square feet of existing space, upgrade 45 classrooms and labs, create student meeting areas and improve building efficiency.



## TUITION EQUITY

PSU President Wim Wiewel has always been a strong advocate for Tuition Equity. Tuition Equity will ensure that graduates of Oregon high schools who are undocumented students have the opportunity to attend an Oregon public university to continue their education. Many of these students have worked very hard to earn a diploma, some performing at the highest levels, and deserve a chance to go to college while showing intent to work towards gaining a legal status.

Representative Michael Dembrow has introduced HB 2787. Similar to previous legislation, this bill states that undocumented students would be eligible for in-state tuition at an OUS institution if the student attended an elementary or secondary school in Oregon for at least three years before getting a diploma, or equivalent, and intends to become a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

## OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

The Oregon Opportunity Grant program is Oregon's only state-funded, need-based grant program to help low and middle income Oregon residents achieve academic success and become productive members of their communities. The Governor's budget proposes approximately 63,000 awards averaging \$1,800 an award for the 2013-14 biennium, an increase of about 3,400 awards from 2011-2013 biennium. PSU students consistently receive the largest amount of Opportunity Grant money, and the university supports this much needed financial aid.

## PSU BRINGS AWARD-WINNING RESEARCH TO D.C.

The Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC), directed by Professor Jennifer Dill, was recently in Washington, D.C. for the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) annual meeting. TRB is the largest conference of its kind, with around 12,000 researchers and practitioners attending. OTREC conducts research on surface transportation, educates current and future transportation leaders and encourages the real-world use of research results. The consortium is also a University Transportation Center created by Congress in 2005, thanks to the leadership of Congressman Peter DeFazio.

Portland State sent 30 graduate and undergraduate students to TRB to participate in sharing research results, learning best practices and networking. Our student, Kristina Currans, received the Student of the Year award from RITA (Research and Innovative Technology Administration) Administrator Greg Winfree. Currans worked with Professor Kelly Clifton and other students on much-anticipated research on consumer spending and travel choices. The group's research showed that customers who arrive by modes other than the automobile are competitive consumers, spending similar amounts or more, on average, than their counterparts using automobiles. These findings brought to light that alternative transportation users are good for business.



Left: RITA Administrator Greg Winfree and Student of the Year awardee Kristina Currans. Below: OTREC students pictured with Congressman Earl Blumenauer.



## PSU MOVES TO 3rd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OREGON

As of January 1, PSU moved into the 3rd Congressional District represented by Congressman Earl Blumenauer. Recent redistricting moved both PSU and OHSU into Blumenauer's district. We were fortunate to have the Congressman on campus during a recent congressional recess to sit down with faculty and talk about how the university and his office can work closely together in the 113th Congress. Faculty brought up various opportunities that would be enhanced by the Congressman's involvement.



PSU Faculty with Rep. Blumenauer (L to R): Chris Monsere, Ethan Seltzer, Sy Adler, Rep. Blumenauer, Phil Kiesling, Ron Tammen, Bill Becker and Rudy Barton.



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