



NORTHWEST

LABOR PRESS

Volume 113
Number 9
May 4, 2012
Portland, Oregon

PRIMARY ELECTION Endorsements of the NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL

Clackamas County

County Chair: **DAVE HUNT**

County Commissioner, Position 3: **MARTHA SCHRADER**

County Commissioner, Position 4: **JAMIE DAMON**

Sheriff: **CRAIG ROBERTS**

Columbia County

Board of Commissioners, Position 1: **EARL FISHER**

Board of Commissioners, Position 3: **TONY HYDE**

Metro

Commissioner, Dist. 6: **BOB STACEY**

Multnomah County

County Commissioner, Dist. 1: **DEBORAH KAFOURY**

County Commissioner, Dist. 3: **JUDY SHIPRACK**

County Commissioner, Dist. 4: **DIANE MCKEEL**

District Attorney: **ROD UNDERHILL**

Ballot Measure 26-125 (Library Levy renewal)
Support

City of Portland

City Commissioner Position 4: **STEVE NOVICK**

Washington County

County Commissioner, District 1: **DICK SCHOUTEN**

(Authorized and paid for by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council,
3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland, Oregon)

University of Oregon administration backs off faculty union challenge

United Academics is certified after Gov. Kitzhaber weighs in

BY STEFAN OSTRACH
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

EUGENE — A new faculty union at the University of Oregon was certified by the Oregon Employment Relations Board April 27, shortly after the university's administration dropped legal objections it had filed against the proposed bargaining unit, which included tenure-related faculty, non-tenure-track faculty, adjunct instructors, and officers of research.

The new union is United Academics of the University of Oregon, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, and the independent American Association of University Professors. The union will include most faculty and research employees at the university.

It is the largest bargaining unit to win union certification through the card-check provisions of Oregon's public sector labor law.

United Academics submitted cards to

the ERB March 13 from a majority of the faculty designating it as their union. Lawyers for the university subsequently filed objections to the proposed bargaining unit that would have gutted the union. The university would have preferred two bargaining units, one for tenured and tenure-related faculty and another unit of non-tenured faculty.

ERB set hearing dates for early May, but the university's administration and the union reached an agreement prior to the hearing.

That deal was reached with help from Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Duke Shepard, labor and human services policy adviser to the governor, told the Labor Press that Kitzhaber "communicated quite a bit" with the UO administration. Kitzhaber's position was, Shepherd explained, "If a majority wants a union they should be able to have it."

Shepard, a former political director at the Oregon AFL-CIO, personally communicated back and forth with both the union and the university. "We felt it was in everyone's best interest to come to a swift resolution," he said.

Shepard conveyed Kitzhaber's view that it would be "productive to start negotiating a contract and not have a pro-

tracted fight over who is in and out [of the bargaining unit]," he said. "Our assessment was the case law is on the side of unionization of workers who want it."

The objections were resolved with an agreement that 49 employees were exempt from representation as managers and another 161 would be excluded "at this time because they currently have supervisory authority." The union and administration also agreed on a process for resolving disputes about other supervisory or confidential positions, consistent with state law.

"We now have the official means to negotiate and collectively bargain for better working conditions, transparency, and accountability," the union said in an e-mail to faculty members. "Among the many Research I universities in the Western U.S., our union will be the largest integrated bargaining unit — a significant achievement in an era where education is continually under threat."

In an e-mail to faculty, Interim University of Oregon President Robert Berdahl said the university "acknowledged from the beginning that our faculty has the right to organize. We did

(Turn to Page 3)

Unions join rally against 'War on Women'



Women from throughout Oregon took part in the "Unite Against the War on Women" rally in Salem April 28.

SALEM — Several hundred people, mostly women, gathered on the steps of the state Capitol for three hours April 28 as part of a national grassroots movement called United Against the War on Women.

Similar rallies were sponsored in 46 states across the country.

The rallies were held as a show of strength against recent threats to women's rights on issues ranging from reproductive to economic and human rights. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 944 measures related to reproductive health have been introduced in 45 state legislatures so far this year.

"Understand, you have the power to return equity, fairness, and balance to this government," said Tom Chamberlain, president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, and one of only two men invited to

(Turn to Page 11)