

Testimony on HB 3342

Dear Committee Members:

I have been a professor of economics at the University of Oregon since 1995. My research on competitive and altruistic behavior has brought over \$1 million in NSF and NIH grant money to Oregon and supported many student workers. I also do extensive volunteer work with camps and school programs to encourage low-income Oregon students to go to college.

I am writing to explain why I think SB3342 would have reduced the suspicion and disinformation that accompanied unionization of the UO faculty.

The UO union organizing campaign started in 2009. In response UO President Richard Lariviere hired a California consulting firm at \$300 an hour, ostensibly to provide the faculty with neutral information about unionization. The contract was kept \$1 under the \$25,001 threshold that would have required a public notice, and came to light only accidentally.

In February 2012, as the union drive heated up, UO General Counsel Randy Geller signed two new contracts. One was with the California firm Curial, Hirschfeld and Kraemer, which runs workshops for employers trying to fight unionization drives. The other was with Oregon's Harrang, Long, Gary and Rudnick law firm.

In April 2012 I made a public records request to UO for these contracts and invoices. It took a petition with the Lane County DA to persuade Mr. Geller to comply. The contracts that I was shown do not describe the scope of the work - rather unusual for state contracts.

In October I requested additional invoices. It took another petition to the DA, and \$240 in payments to UO, but eventually UO provided heavily redacted invoices, looking like this:

04/03/2012	Reviewed and responded to emails regarding [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Assessed analysis [REDACTED] [5], assessed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] [1.0]; reviewed issue of [REDACTED] [6].	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
04/04/2012	Research regarding [REDACTED]; reviewed emails from [REDACTED] regarding [REDACTED]; reviewed [REDACTED] pertaining to [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Reviewed and responded to emails; reviewed documents regarding [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Many tens of thousands of dollars were spent on these law firms during the union organizing drive, and the bill is probably now well over \$250,000.

UO's efforts to hide these contracts and the nature of the work decreased the level of trust between the administration and the faculty. This bad start is now affecting the bargaining. I support HB3342 because it will put some needed teeth behind the current rules against use of state funds to prevent unionization.

Sincerely,

Bill Harbaugh, Professor of Economics, University of Oregon