



Remarks by incoming UO Senate President Peter Gilkey – 27 May 2009

It is a high honor and privilege to have been selected to serve as your Senate President for academic 2009/10. I believe passionately in the role that higher education plays in our state of Oregon. Higher education is one of the few positive sum games where the output benefit to our state far exceeds the input dollars provided by the state legislature. My children George and Emily went here and got an excellent start in life – George is studying to be a doctor in St. Louis and Emily is studying in the History department here.

Our University has two primary obligations. The first obligation is the creation of knowledge. The other obligation is the dissemination of knowledge, the development of character, and the guiding of change - almost all in the University play a role in these two endeavors either directly or by providing support.

I have no agenda for the year I will be Senate President. My only task is to facilitate the functioning of the Senate. To make sure it works smoothly from a parliamentary point of view. And, above all else, to further your agendas. We will doubtless have to deal with faculty governance and budgetary issues this year. But those are not the focus of the University. Our task at the University is not bureaucracy. It is to further our joint missions of creating and disseminating knowledge. I look forward to being your Senate President and to making it possible for us to do what needs to be done and to ensure that all the children are above average.