



## 2009 Legislative Changes to Oregon's Ethics Law

### GIFTS

\* Effective January 1, 2010

- Definition of legislative or administrative interest narrowed.
  - Defined as an economic interest distinct from the general public in any matter subject to the decision or vote of a public official acting in his/her official capacity.
  - Interest no longer extends to the government body – only the individual recipient.
- Entertainment is no longer prohibited.
  - Payment of entertainment expenses are considered a gift and subject to the \$50 gift limit.
- Meals can be accepted when invited to attend a reception, meal or meeting held by an organization when you are attending as a representative of the college.
  - No longer have to participate as a part of the official program as a speaker, panelist, etc...
- Gifts given as part of the usual and customary practice of your business, employment or volunteer positions are now allowed and exempt from the gift limits.
  - Gift giving must be unrelated to your position as a public official.
  - Does not apply to volunteers for state, local or special governments.
- Sanctions minimized for those who rely on Oregon Government Ethics Commission's (OGEC) ethics manual or when faulty advice given by OGEC staff.

### STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST

\* Effective April 15, 2009

- No longer required to list household members and relatives.
  - Information provided on prior reports will be redacted.
- Quarterly reporting requirement was repealed.
  - Information that was included on quarterly reports related to honoraria; food, lodging, travel expenses paid under gift exceptions; and source of income over \$1,000 with an interest in the college, must be reported on annual report due April 15.
- Income reporting requirements changed back to listing only sources that exceed 10% of household income.
- Electronic reporting system implementation delayed until 2013.