

Government Relations Update for the Campus Community

April 2017

Prepared with the assistance of the Oregon Council of Presidents (OCOP)

April Summary

April was a very busy month, as bills that started in their committee of origin had to pass out of committee prior to the April 18th deadline or die. Since the first chamber posting deadline, 1,217 bills have “died.” The number of bills that the university government relations team is tracking has decreased to 451 from the original 928 bills that have an impact on higher education. There are 20 days remaining for policy committees in the second chamber to hear and hold work sessions on bills. Please see more highlights below.

Budget Hearings

Oregon’s Public Universities presented our collective budget request to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education on March 12, 13 and 17th, including the Public University Support Fund (our operating budget), the State Programs (including the Oregon Renewable Energy Center - OREC), and the Statewide Programs. The universities are scheduled to present our Capital Project request on May 5th, including Oregon Tech’s request \$42M for the Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology / Cornett Hall Renovation.



Christian Diaz, EERE graduate student, Josh Bratt, industry partner from Power Oregon, and John Dumbauld, recent alumnus in mechanical engineering, now working at eWind Solutions, testified to the Education Subcommittee on Ways and Means to seek state support for the Oregon Renewable Energy Center (OREC).

In addition to the formal budget presentations, students, alumni and industry partners testified during the public hearing on the value of an Oregon Tech education, the need for more state support to keep tuition affordable, and the opportunities for applied research and economic development if the state provides foundational funding for OREC. Thanks to the following individuals for their expert testimony and letters of support: Kevin Malstrom, Shellie Johnson, and Peggy Hawkins, Oregon Tech Wilsonville ASOIT Officers; as well as Hannah Cruz from Energy Trust of Oregon, Jeff Bissonette, Oregon Solar Energy Industry Association, Jeff Allen,

Drive Oregon, Josh Bratt, Power Oregon, student Christian Diaz and alumni John Dumbauld and Jason Sullins. The Oregon Tech teams were impressive!

Budget

- In late April, the Co-Chairs of Ways and Means issued a [Target Reduction List](#) providing a more detailed budget, built off of the budget framework that was published in January. The rationale for issuing the list at this time is to build pressure on business and labor communities to continue conversations on revenue, PERS reforms, and cost containment. Under this framework, the Public University Support Fund (PUS F- our operating budget) would increase to \$683.4M (\$16M higher than the Governor’s Recommended Budget of \$667M). Sports Lottery funding would also be restored to the amount received last biennium, \$8.24M. Support for the Statewide programs would be cut by \$2.2M, the Oregon Promise program would potentially use a means-test to reduce eligibility and costs, and the Chief Education Office would be eliminated with five remaining positions being transferred to the Governor’s Office.
- A cost containment work group announced [actions to curb future budget growth](#) in late April as well. Some of the proposed reforms – such as combining OEBC and PEBC, and requiring cost of living increases to comply with schedules for state employees – would impact universities. We are studying the possible impacts and will formulate a plan for response.
- We expect that a bill that would allow public universities to leave PEBC will be dropped this week. It is likely that this will become a study to assess the costs and benefits that would accrue to institutions as well as the State if this were to happen. The Presidents have asked LAC to consider weighing in on the proposal to leave PEBC.
- We are not aware of any recent conversations around PERS other than the proposals to implement a \$100,000 benefits cap and to move final average salary calculations from 3 to 5 years. Currently, General Counsels are reviewing the bills (Senate Bill 559 and 560) and amendments with OSU’s legal team in the lead.



Rep. E. Werner Reschke meets Liam Perry, newly appointed student representative on the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees after his confirmation hearing.

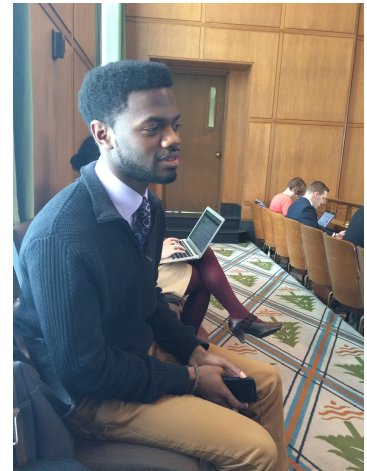
Capital Construction

A presentation on public university capital projects has tentatively been scheduled for May 5th in the Capital Construction Subcommittee. The universities will deliver a presentation that will lead off with requests for projects totaling \$284M as collectively supported by Oregon Council of Presidents (OCOP), followed by additional descriptions of the OSU-Cascades and UO’s Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact projects.

The House Higher Education Committee has also requested that we present on capital projects that have not previously been presented to this committee. That hearing is tentatively scheduled for May 2nd or May 4th.

Policy Bills, General

- [HB 2929](#), passed out of House Higher Education last week with amendments that reduce the proposed student loan refinancing guarantee pilot program to a refundable tax credit program.
- [HB 2972](#), re. student codes of conduct introduced on behalf of the Attorney General, received a public hearing and work session in Senate Judiciary this week and was passed unanimously to the Senate Floor.
- [HB 2998](#), that would direct community colleges and universities to develop statewide transfer agreements, passed unanimously out of the House Higher Education Committee with the -2 amendments and recommendation for referral to Joint Ways & Means. The measure received a fiscal hall pass with preliminary figures indicating that the HECC would require two limited duration positions to implement the bill.
- A work session for [HB 3170](#) that would extend collective bargaining rights to certain faculty members of a public university was held. The bill passed out of committee on a party line vote with the -1 amendments. It is scheduled to be on the House Floor soon.
- [HB 3276](#) that would require coverage of necessary health services in the case of an outbreak or epidemic passed unanimously out of the House Health Care Committee and was referred to Joint Ways & Means.
- [HB 3288](#) that would require public universities to report on the impact of legislative mandates as well as causes for increased administrative positions passed unanimously out of House Higher Education.
- [HB 3437](#), that would move the work of developing a statewide talent plan that was previously assigned to the Oregon Talent Council to the Workforce Investment Board, passed unanimously out of the House Higher Education Committee.
- [SB 54](#), the vehicle that we have been working with the HECC to get amendments to make technical corrections to university statutes, will be heard on the Senate Floor during the last week of April.
- The Provosts have drafted a letter outlining concerns with [SB 207](#) that would require colleges and universities to accept a score of 3 on advanced placement exams.
- The reporting bill sponsored by Sen. Taylor for the Attorney General, [SB 253](#), passed out of the Senate Education Committee to the Senate Floor with a fiscal impact statement indicating costs for colleges, universities and OSHU in excess of \$3M. The measure will most likely be referred to the House Higher Education Committee where we will advocate for amendments to the bill.
- [SB 274](#), that would require each post-secondary educational institution that provides housing for students to provide to each student enrolling or registering at an institution for the first time information on vaccine-preventable diseases known to occur in individuals between 16 and 21 years of age, is scheduled for a public hearing in House Higher Education on April 25th.
- The -9 amendments to [SB 828](#), on predictive scheduling, were adopted in the Senate Workforce Committee last week and the bill has been referred to Senate Rules.
- We continue to provide input on [SB 481](#) and [SB 106](#) dealing with public records. SB 481, that would establish policies on responding to public records requests, passed the Senate 29-1 and is currently awaiting referral in the House. We have been told that work on this bill will continue in the second chamber. SB 106, that would create a Public Records Advocate in the Office of the Secretary of State, was moved to Ways & Means by prior reference by the Senate General Government Committee.



Lamar Wise, Oregon Student Association Legislative Director, listens to testimony in the House Chamber Gallery on the cultural competency bill.

Policy Bills, Public Universities

- [SB 201](#) Retroactive Fix for Out-of-State University Employees
 - **Current Committee:** Joint Ways & Means
 - **Status:** Passed out of Senate Workforce with the -1 amendments and without recommendation as to passage on a 4-1 vote.
- [HB 2582](#) Establish a University Research “Fighting Fund”
 - **Current Committee:** Awaiting transfer to the House Desk
 - **Status:** Passed unanimously out of House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee with -1 amendments.
- [HB 2565](#) Expand Veteran Priority Registration and Services
 - **Current Committee:** Senate Education
 - **Status:** Public hearing scheduled for April 25th.



Trustee Perry with Senator Linthicum, discussing Oregon Tech’s legislative priorities.

Other Activities

- Senate Rules held a hearing and work session on [executive appointments](#) on Wednesday, April 26th. Oregon Tech student, Liam Perry, attended the confirmation hearing and confirmed as the new student trustee on Oregon Tech’s board.
- We have been contacted about presenting at several informational hearings:
 - The House Higher Education Committee has invited Presidents Insko and Schill to participate in a presentation that describes the ways in which students benefit from the institutional governing board structure. This is tentatively scheduled for May 9th.
 - The Education Subcommittee of Joint Ways and Means is tentatively planning on hearing additional information from the universities on State Programs as well as implementation of the Outdoor School ballot measure on May 10th.
- The HECC’s Finance and Administration Subcommittee is scheduled to consider all requests for tuition increases above 5% at an extended meeting on Wednesday, May 10th. The HECC plans to allow approximately 30 minutes per institution to receive information on the tuition increase request with a particular focus on the criteria outlined by the Governor. It is at this meeting that governing board chairs or their designees would be expected to participate, either in person or by phone. HECC staff will also be contacting members of student organizations or student participants in tuition setting committees to complete a survey on the tuition setting process and associated student impacts. The full HECC Commission will meet on May 11th and allow up to 2 hours for public comment, including from public universities. The HECC will approve or disapprove of all requests at this meeting.

Opportunity for Campus Engagement: May 16, 2017: TRU Day in the Capitol

Please join us for this advocacy day for the technical and regional universities. All seven university presidents will be there for the Council of Presidents and to conduct advocacy meetings with legislators. An invitation to TRU day is attached for your information.

For more information, contact Brittany Miles, Government Relations: Brittany.Miles@oit.edu.



Support Oregon Tech and make your voices heard.

On **May 16th** the Technical and Regional Universities – the “TRUs” which include Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Southern Oregon University, and Western Oregon University – will be holding a day of activities in the State Capitol to inform legislators and their staff about the amazing opportunities these institutions provide to Oregonians.

On May 16th you can show your support by coming to Salem and meeting with legislators.

Wilsonville: students and staff will leave the Wilsonville campus at 7:00 am on May 16th

Klamath Falls: There will be a bus leaving campus after classes and practice on May 15th. The bus will leave Salem to return to Klamath Falls at 4:00 pm May 16th. Lodging will be provided.

If you would like to support Oregon Tech and let your elected representative know you support funding for public universities, please complete the registration.

Register to Attend: [Take the survey](#)

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:

https://oit.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_0TUWSLEdJRUR4DX?Q_CHL=preview

Full Schedule and detailed itinerary to follow.

Please email Brittany.miles@oit.edu or call her at (503) 821-1288 with any questions.