
Government Relations Update for January 2017

Start of Session: February 1, 2017

Oregon’s full legislative session starts February 1, 2017, and the university government relations team is organizing the advocacy efforts. Legislators have now been assigned their committees, and they will meet to train new legislators on January 9-11. The Public University Legislative Advisory Council is beginning to sort through thousands of bills that are being introduced by legislators.

This year, Oregon’s public universities have the added benefit of the new Oregon Council of Presidents, OCOP, with a new Executive Director, Dana Richardson, a seasoned expert in the capitol, who will coordinate meetings of the seven university presidents plus OHSU, and organize bill tracking and unified university testimony.



Sean Sloan waits to testify at the Ways and Means Hearing at Oregon Tech in 2015.



Senators Johnson, Whitsett, Hansell, and Roblan take notes as speakers testify about state funding at Oregon Tech.

Two lobby days are currently scheduled:

Feb 14: OSA Lobby Day - We will be seeking student participation on this date.

May 16: TRU Lobby Day – We will be seeking student, faculty and staff participation on this date.

Brittany Miles and Lita Colligan will be organizing Oregon Tech participation in these activities. Please let Lita or Brittany know if you wish to participate.

The campus community will be critically important at the Ways and Means Budget Hearings, which will be scheduled during the early weeks of February, with no dates or locations announced yet, and with the Public University budget presentation in March.

Oregon Tech’s 2017 Wish List:

- \$765 in Public University Support Fund
- \$42M in funding for Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology/Cornett
- \$1M for OREC as a state program
- Full funding for Sports Lottery
- University “fighting fund” to provide state matching funds for federal research proposals
- Limit expansion of Oregon Promise program until Oregon Opportunity Grant program is fully funded.

Subject Matter Expertise:

Brittany Miles or Lita Colligan will be reaching out to individuals on campus with subject matter expertise on bills that arise this session. As in past legislative sessions we appreciate your direction on how bills would impact Oregon Tech.

Thank you all in advance for your help this session.

Early bills of interest are included in the table below.

LC #	Bill #	Relating Clause	Summary	Sponsor
3083	-	Higher education	Permits merger of CC and Public University	Sen. Courtney
1366	-	Student athlete agents	Student athlete agents	Sen. Courtney
2062	-	Open educational resources at post-secondary institutions of education	OER's	Rep. Whisnant
1153	-	Every Student Succeeds Act	Task Force on ESSA	Senate Education
1277	SB 214	Eligibility of post-doctoral scholars for retirement benefits	Provides that post-docs are not eligible to participate in PERS	Senate Education
1375	-	Assessment of public universities	Requires each PU to participate annually in national study of university instructional costs and productivity	Senate Education
1655	-	Receiving credit for advanced placement performance	Requires PU's and CC's to provide credit to students who receive certain grades on advanced placement exams	Senate Education
1820	-	Teaching with purpose	K-12 cultural competency	Senate Education

2373		Immunizations	Requires each post-secondary educational institution that provides housing for students to provide to each student information on vaccine-preventable diseases known to occur in individuals ages 16-21	Senate Health Care
1570		CTE-STEM Investment Council	Establishes CTE-STEM Investment Council. Abolishes STEM Investment Council.	Senate Workforce
2758		Withholding tax credit for wages paid to youth workers	Creates tax credit for employers that pay wages to youth workers	Senate Workforce
2819		Website for matching students with industry professionals	Directs HECC to develop website to match students with industry professionals for purposes of improving access to internships, job shadowing opportunities and work experience	Senate Workforce
2684		Withholding tax credit for wages paid to youth workers	Creates tax credit for employers that pay wages to youth workers	House Business & Labor
2806		Workers' comp coverage for self-insured public bodies	Provides that DCBS may certify self-insurance program created by IGA	House Business & Labor
2932		Employee work schedules	Predictive scheduling	House Business & Labor
3058		Resolving student complaints against schools	Alters process by which HECC resolves student complaints against schools	House Higher Education
2536		tax credits for qualified research activities	Extends tax credit to 2024	House Revenue
459	HB 2311	Purpose of higher education	40-40-20 Revision	HECC
508	HB 2313	Accelerated college credit programs	Accelerated learning course flags	HECC
515	HB 2314	Higher education	Agency technical clean up including "approval" vs "review" of PU mission statements	HECC
500	SB 54	Public universities	University evaluations and budget submission timelines	HECC
522	SB 55	Oregon Promise program	Oregon Promise	HECC

New Representation for Oregon Tech

Oregon Tech's Campuses have newly elected representatives this session in the house and senate:

Oregon Tech Klamath Falls has a new state senator:



Dennis Linthicum (R)- Klamath Falls

Linthicum is a, large-scale database development manager, and rancher who is presently a Klamath County Commissioner. He has a bachelor's degree in Economics from UCLA and a master's degree from Biola University.

Legislative Priorities: Restore local control for rural Oregon

Committees: Education, Judiciary, Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology.

Oregon State House of Representatives:

Oregon State's House of Representatives: 40% of Oregon State's House Representatives will be new this year. Democrats will maintain their majority 35-25.

Oregon Tech Klamath Falls has a new state house representative:



Werner Reschke (R)- Malin

Reshke grew up in Beaverton. After starting at Judson Baptist College in The Dalles, graduated from Oregon State University with BA (honors) degree in Business Administration. With his wife, Reschke owns a small online marketing agency specializing in web design, cloud development and email marketing. His employment history includes time with Georgia-Pacific, Tektronix, and Xerox.

Legislative Priorities: Limit Salem's scope and power, no new taxes or rate increases

Committees: Economic Development and Trade, Energy and Environment, Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Oregon Tech Wilsonville has a new state house representative:



Rich Vial (R) Hillsboro

Vial, a native Oregonian, is an attorney specializing in condominium and planned community developments. He is a graduate of BYU with a degree in Business and Accounting, and he completed his law degree at Willamette. With a large family, including 7 adoptees from Viet Nam, the Vial family owns a 24 acre farm in Scholls. He has served on the Washington County Planning Commission, Land-Use Advisory Committee, and County Fair Board.

Legislative Priorities: transportation package and land use issues

Committees: Education, Vice-chair Transportation Policy, Judiciary.

For more information, contact the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Relations
Lita Colligan, Associate Vice President ~ 503-821-1247 ~ Lita.colligan@oit.edu or
Brittany Miles, Industry Partnerships and Government Relations Manager, 503-821-1288
Brittany.miles@oit.edu.