



# Legislative Bulletin

**LATE EDITION      Tuesday, April 17, 2007**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 18 –April 26**

**OUS Ways & Means Budget  
Hearings  
Public Testimony Day**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17  
OSU DAY**

A wide variety of OSU colleges and programs will have displays in the Galleria throughout the day, please take the opportunity to stop by.

Reception at 5:00 PM in the  
**Capitol Galleria**

Food and Beverages  
Remarks by nationally  
acclaimed screenwriter and OSU  
Alum: **Mike Rich**

## **OUS BUDGET HEARINGS**

**Wednesday 4/18 &  
Thursday 4/19**

**JOINT WAYS & MEANS  
HR F 3:00pm**

**SB5515: Appropriates  
moneys from General Fund to  
Department of Higher  
Education for biennial  
expenses, for debt service and  
for administrative costs  
relating to general obligation  
bonds sold to support higher  
education institutions.**



## **Statement from the Oregon University System on Virginia Tech Tragedy**

On behalf of the State Board of Higher Education and the Oregon University System, Chancellor George Pernsteiner today expressed his concern and sympathy for the students, faculty, staff, families and campus community at Virginia Tech for the tragic shootings which occurred this morning.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by this terrible incident at Virginia Tech,” said Pernsteiner. “When incidents such as this occur, it naturally raises concerns for everyone about the safety of students in our own schools and educational institutions. The Oregon University System campuses are organizing counseling services for our own students who may need support today and in the upcoming weeks, and working with local public safety partners to address campus and individual concerns. Each campus has in place emergency preparedness plans for student and campus community safety in the event of any type of crisis. We will continue to monitor the information from local authorities in Virginia reporting about the incident, so that we can use it to help review our own tactical and readiness plans to ensure the utmost preparedness for any incident that may put our students or communities at risk.”

Pernsteiner noted that public safety agencies and educational institutions continue to participate with their community partners to encourage the prompt reporting of suspicious activity or information regarding on campus concerns that students and staff may have. “Our public safety partners remind us that everyone should work together, whether in our communities or on our campuses, to prevent these horrific incidents from happening, including reporting any information regarding planned acts of violence which students, campus community members, or the public may learn about.”

Law enforcement agencies train and plan for tactical responses to these types of incidents in Oregon’s schools and on its campuses. For example, training and planning for a tactical response to the Oregon State University campus has been completed. This planning involves the Oregon State Police (OSP) University Area Command, OSP SWAT Team, Corvallis Police Department and other law enforcement.

## Hearings of Interest

### House Judiciary Committee

Wed. 4/18 HR 357 8:00am

**HB 3318:** Redesignates special campus security officers within Oregon University System as public safety officers.

### Senate Finance & Revenue

Wed. 4/18 HR A 8:45am

**SB 582:** Allows public university to direct affiliated foundation to administer university venture development fund.

### House Committee on Education Subcommittee on Education Innovation

Thurs. 4/19 HR D 1:00pm

**HB3338:** Creates Education System Design Team

### Senate Committee on Education and Gen.Gov.

Thurs. 4/19 HR B 8:00am

**SB 382:** Directs Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish interscholastic activity districts and determine placement of schools in those districts.

**SB 753:** Requires that state agencies and officers cooperate with and provide information requested by ombudsman established by law or designated by other state agency or officer.

## SENATE PASSES

### Shared Responsibility Model

On Wednesday, April 11, the Oregon Senate passed Senate Bill 334, the Shared Responsibility Model for higher education. The new model, developed by the State Board of Higher Education's Access and Affordability Working Group, is an innovative approach to helping Oregonians attend college. The outcome from the new model will be more Oregonians receiving access to higher education, including middle-income families.

"Simply put, this bill makes college affordable for every single person in Oregon that wants to go to college," said Senator Kurt Schrader (D-Canby). "If a student is willing to accept some personal responsibility for their own education, Oregon will be there to guarantee affordable access."

The Shared Responsibility Model uses a new structure that takes into account the student's ability to pay, funding available from the federal government and family resources when determining aid available to pay for college. If all of the available resources do not add up to enough to cover the cost, the state would fill the gap through the Oregon Opportunity Grant. The Shared Responsibility Model would apply to Oregon students attending public or private not-for-profit institutions of higher education in Oregon.

The bill went through the Senate Education and General Government Committee, chaired by Senator Vicki Walker (D-Eugene). "I was proud to move this bill out of committee because of the exciting new opportunities we are providing our students," said Walker. "We are sending a message to low and middle-income students that we will support their pursuit of a college education."

Senate Bill 334 now moves to the House for consideration.



## Ways and Means Committee in Corvallis

More than 400 people turned out Tuesday, April 10 to attend a hearing of the Joint Ways and Means Committee at Cheldelin Middle School in Corvallis. Of that group almost 70 managed to testify before the 20 state lawmakers who were present during the 2 ½ hour budget hearing. Supporters of Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University took the opportunity to urge the Committee to fund building projects, raise faculty pay, hold down tuition, and begin to reinvest in higher education. Others encouraged support of OSU research through the proposed Bio-Economy and Sustainable Technologies Signature Research Center, while others encouraged funding to maintain the statewide OSU Extension Service.

Higher education causes were not the only ones drawing testimony. Funding for local health services, community mental health programs, affordable housing, help for at-risk youth, arts funding, and subsidized child care all had their proponents.

Tuesday's hearing was just one of several community meetings being held throughout the state to gather testimony on the 2007-09 state budget.

### House Education Committee Wednesday, April 11, 2007

**HB 3024** Bill sponsor Representative Mitch Greenlick spoke to the history of this bill. He has sponsored a similar bill during the past two legislative sessions. Representative Greenlick stated that he has requested an independent study of this bill from the Oregon State Board of Higher Education. The study is expected April 25. Representative Greenlick moved that the bill be sent to Joint Ways & Means with a "do pass" recommendation. Representative Roblan voiced his concern over the need to invest in Higher Education. He stated that he felt that this is a good bill and that he supports it, but feels this is not yet the time for such a measure. Representative Greenlick stated that if the legislature is not going to fund higher education, then PSU should be freed up to go out for their own funding and partner with a world renowned institution, OHSU. Representative Dallum concurred with Representative Roblan's statement of the need for higher education funding. Representative Krummel asked "why not eliminate the bureaucracy of OUS, and let all the campuses be independent and if they make it they make it?" The entire committee stressed the importance of evaluating the independent study of the merger when it is released in April. The motion carried and the bill will now be heard in an upcoming Ways and Means committee hearing.

## OUS LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER



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The Government Relations office of the Chancellor's Office will be sending you this electronic newsletter about important events of the past week in Salem and things to come in the days ahead. The newsletter will be published every Friday at 4:00 p.m. throughout session. If you wish to suggest items for inclusion or comments on coverage of issues affecting OUS interests at the Legislature, please feel free to e-mail or phone the Salem Government Relations office.

([mary\\_robinson@ous.edu](mailto:mary_robinson@ous.edu), 503-373-7490).

## BILLWATCH AVAILABLE FOR TRACKING

A comprehensive OUS bill tracking system called BillWatch, has been developed to record information about bills affecting the OUS, and to track their progress through the legislative process. BillWatch is designed to be used by members of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, Chancellor's Office staff, campus leadership and OUS advocates. BillWatch is a secure system and users must obtain a user name and password from the Office of Government Relations to use this service.

Subscribing to BillWatch allows users to subscribe and designate particular bills of interest or to provide a broader search of all legislation. A second benefit of subscribing is notification: upon subscribing to a particular bill, users will receive automatic email notification when action is taken on the bill, e.g., hearings scheduled, amendments engrossed, etc. To request access, go to <http://billwatch.ous.edu/>. From there, choose *Request an Account*. Your request should be processed within 24 hours. An electronic users guide is available by clicking on HELP at the BillWatch main login menu.

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