



Legislative Bulletin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 10

Portland State University Day

Tuesday, April 17

Oregon State University Day

April 18 –April 26

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE ROAD TOUR

Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 PM

Cheldelin Middle School
987 Conifer Blvd –Cafeteria
CORVALLIS, OR

Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 PM

UO Lillis Business Complex
Room 282
EUGENE, OR

Thursday, April 12, 6:30 PM

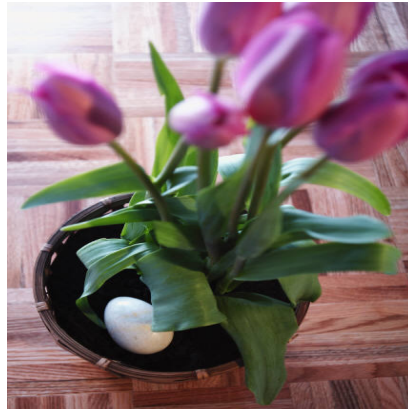
OSU-Cascades
2600 NW College Way
BEND, OR

Friday, April 13, 6:30 PM

South Medford High School
Auditorium
815 S. Oakdale
MEDFORD, OR

Saturday, April 14, 1:00 PM

TBD
COOS BAY, OR



BIG TURNOUTS FOR WAYS AND MEANS FIELD HEARINGS

Last week the Joint Committee on WAYS AND MEANS held public hearings in locations throughout the Willamette Valley, Central Oregon and the Oregon Coast.

On Wednesday, April 4, the Ways and Means committee held a hearing in Oregon City where hundreds of individuals turned out to express concerns and issues regarding state funding for a variety of essential public services from mental health to public safety and education. The Committee also met on Thursday, April 5, at Jefferson High School in Portland. This hearing had another big turnout with over 400 people in the audience and a nearly full complement of committee members.

Although higher education advocates showed up an hour early to sign up to testify, there was already a huge line of people and seven sign up sheets already filled. Many of those who got to sign up didn't have an opportunity to actually testify. When the hearing started and there were well over 200 people signed up, they stopped letting people sign in altogether though the line was still 40 or 50 people deep.

Regardless of these disappointments, many higher education advocates are expected to turn out again at hearings scheduled for this week. The turnout is essential and critical to show support for state investments in higher education. Your presence at the hearings does not go unnoticed by committee members.

If you want to testify, it is advisable that you are actually present to sign up. At Thursday's hearing, committee staff disallowed the practice of having one person sign up multiple witnesses. We fully anticipate this policy to stand for the hearings this week.

If you have written comments, take 30 copies and provide them to the committee at the hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing and want to provide written comments, be advised that you should address any e-mail communications directly to your legislators. Make sure to include your home address so they know you are a constituent.

Anyone is allowed to testify, even if you are an employee of any of the institutions of the Oregon University System. It is required, however, that as you address the committee, you do so as a private citizen, but please advise them of your credentials.

See times and locations for this week's meetings highlighted in the side column of this page.



HEARINGS OF INTEREST:

Monday, 4/9 1:00pm HR D
House Education Sub on
Higher Education

Informational Hearing –PSU
President Bernstine

HB 3243: Establishes credit against personal income tax for amounts paid by eligible taxpayer to eligible post-secondary institutions as tuition for coursework taken by taxpayer.

HB 3345: Appropriates money from General Fund to Department of Higher Education for capital construction.

Tuesday, 4/10 8:00am HR B
Senate Education and Gen Gov
Committee

SB 448: Directs State Board of Higher Education to review long-term viability of state institutions of higher education and to report detailed findings of review to Governor and Legislative Assembly no later than 2/01/09.

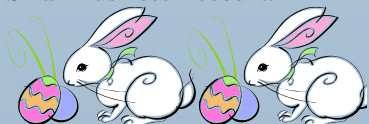
Wednesday, 4/11 8:45am HR A
Senate Finance & Revenue

SB 5516: Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Higher Education for capital construction.

SB 152: Directs Governor to include in budget report capital construction budget for Department of Higher Education that establishes expenditure limitation for proceeds from bonds issued under Article X-F(1) of Oregon Constitution.

Thursday, 4/12 8:00am HR B
Senate Education and Gen Gov
Committee

SB 596: Permits contracting agency to limit competition for public contract to certified emerging small business enterprises if contract is estimated to cost \$100,000 or less and is funded by Emerging Small Business Account.



COMMUNITY COLLEGES BUDGET HEARINGS BEGIN THIS WEEK

On Monday, April 9, the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education begins consideration of HB 5012, the operating and Community College Support Fund budget for Oregon's 17 Community Colleges and workforce development programs.

The hearings are scheduled to take place April 9, 10 and 11th, at 3:00 p.m., in Hearing Room F of the State Capitol.



House Reforms Double Majority

On Thursday, April 5, the House passed HJR 14, legislation to reform Oregon's double majority election law. If this Constitutional change is approved, a majority of voters will be able to decide local measures in all May and November elections - without meeting the additional hurdle requiring a double majority (50% of registered voters to return their ballots). This vote is an important win for democracy over apathy.

The double majority requirement was a hidden provision in 1996's Ballot Measure 47. It has impeded passage of countless local option and bond measures leaving cities, counties, community colleges, police departments, school districts, and other special districts hamstrung during budget emergencies.

School districts throughout Oregon have all been hampered by the double majority rule-- where a majority of our local voters approved measures, but non-voters vetoed those approvals by not participating. The House passed the resolution on a bipartisan 46-11 vote. HJR now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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, 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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