



Legislative Bulletin

Tuesday, May 2
Regional Day @
Capitol
Monday, May 14
UO Day @ Capitol

**OHSU BUDGET TO BE
CONSIDERED BY JOINT
W&M EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE NEXT
WEEK**

SB 5529: OHSU's operating budget will be heard in the Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means next week. Hearings begin on Tuesday, May 1 and conclude on Thursday, May 3. The hearings will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in Hearing Room F at the State Capitol.

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
TAKES PUBLIC HEARING
ON CAMPUS SECURITY
OFFICER BILL**

HB 3318: on Friday, April 27, 2007. Several campus security officers from across OUS campuses testified in support of the measure. Jay Kenton, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration testified in opposition to the Bill. Mr. Jack Rogers, Director of Campus Public Safety at OSU provided the committee an overview of the contract between OSU and Oregon State Police who provides campus security services on the OSU campus. No formal action was taken by the committee.

OUS BUDGET HEARINGS WRAP UP

The Ways and Means Education Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Larry Galizio (D-Tigard) completed its hearings on the OUS Operating Budget this week. On Monday, Dalton Miller-Jones, member of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education and Professor at Portland State University, Susan Weeks, OUS Vice Chancellor for Strategic Programs and Planning, Dr. Sabah Randhawa, Provost, Oregon State University and Lee Ayers, Associate Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice at Southern Oregon University presented an overview of the performance measurement objectives of the State Board of Higher Education and the Oregon University System, student learning, success, outcomes and assessment in the OUS and how faculty play a vital role in learning success and outcomes.

On Tuesday, Board member Tony VanVliet presented contextual information on the strategic planning work conducted by the State Board of Higher Education over the past year. VanVliet indicated that the Board's budget request was directly related to the strategic planning and was developed and submitted based on what the Board had determined to be its priorities to achieve a sustainable and robust public university system. Jay Kenton, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration a considerable amount of time walking through the financial imperatives of the system and how those priorities were reflected in the Governor's Recommended Budget. Kenton also detailed the strategic investments in programs such as ETIC, healthcare workforce preparation, and rural access. Kenton emphasized the factors which have placed the Oregon University System in an unsustainable financial position and has led to significant budget reductions at most campuses, a substantial reduction in system-wide reserves, and reduction in programs and academic capacity at a time when enrollment demands are increasing.

Kenton illustrated that for 2007-09 the OUS estimates that Education and General other funds limited revenue budgets (62% of our E&G funding) will increase by \$107M due to projected enrollment growth, tuition increases limited to median family income and growth in indirect costs and other revenues over the biennium.

However,

- o \$57M or 53% of this increase will be needed simply to fund essential budget level;
- o Another \$18M or 17% will be needed to serve the projected enrollment growth over the biennium;
- o Another \$11M or 10% will be needed to fund PEBB (health and dental cost growth) projected at 10% each year;
- o Leaving just \$21M for the other funds share of any salary increases, equating to a 2.2% + 2.2% increase for all employees each year.

Closing the session on Tuesday with an eloquent and passionate statement was Adriana Mendoza, student member of the State Board of Higher Education and student at Eastern Oregon University. Mendoza painted a picture of what Oregon would be if it does not commit greater levels of investment in higher education in Oregon. Mendoza warned of more young people with little hope for a chance for college, course offerings, such as engineering, nursing, law, computer science are gone, with whole departments having been sold to universities in Washington, Idaho, China, and other countries in order to sustain those subjects that remain at the single university, and most core industries in Oregon leaving Oregon, when they reached the tipping point where importing workers from other states and countries no longer enabled them to be profitable.

**Bills of Interest
Week 4/30 – 5/4**

**Monday, 4/30 8:30a HR B
SB 4:** Declares nursing
workforce shortage.

**Monday, 4/30 3pm HR D
HB 2021:** Makes public
agency liable for workers'
unpaid wages, fringe benefits
and liquidated damages when
public agency fails to include
certain information about
prevailing rates of wage in
specifications for public
works contract.

**Monday, 4/30 3PM HR D
HB 3301:** Makes findings
concerning use of Oregon
workers to perform services
contracted for by state
agencies.

**Tuesday, 5/1 8am HR B
HB 2579:** Increases number
of directors appointed to State
Board of Higher Education.

**Tuesday, 5/1 8am HR B
HB 2702:** Directs Governor
to assign state agency
responsibility for developing
plan to ensure that written
documents produced by
executive department agencies
conform to plain language
standards.

OUS Hearings continued:

Mendoza urged the members to realize that they have the responsibility and the opportunity to determine the future of higher education in Oregon and the future of our state, stating that there is an inextricable link between educational attainment and a state's economic success and the individual success of each of its citizens. She asked the members to think of their legacy as one of hope, of opportunity for any Oregon student to go to college; of a highly skilled, highly in-demand workforce; of innovations in technology, medicine and sustainability; of families where college going becomes as hereditary as the color of one's eyes; of campuses that retain the history and value of their historic buildings while building labs and classrooms that can produce cures for cancer, nano fuel cells, innovations in teaching, and work-ready graduates.

On Wednesday, Hal Salwasser, Thayne Dutson and Scott Reed of Oregon State University presented the budget, mission and services provided by the Forest Research Laboratory, Extension Service and Agriculture Experiment Station. Following the Deans were a number of witnesses who testified to further illustrate the important role these statewide services provide at the local level. Ms. Lizbeth Gonzalez, a 4-H technology wizard from Hillsboro testified, followed by Clackamas County Commissioner Martha Schrader, Carol Whipple, Rocking C Ranch in Elkton, Ray Jones, Roseburg Forest Products, David Adelsheim, Adelsheim Vineyards, and Manuel Silveira, V.P., Norpac Foods.

Other witnesses testified Wednesday afternoon on behalf of and in support of the budgets for the programs and services provided by the OUS: Mayor Tom Potter, City of Portland testified on behalf of PSU; Bill Wyatt, Executive Director of the Port of Portland testified on behalf of the Oregon Solutions program at PSU; Steve Pawlowksi testified and introduced several students who are or have engaged in programs supported by ETIC.

Also testifying were several students attending various OUS institutions namely Zach Wilmarth, Drew Brammer, Mike Olson, Courtney Morse, Tiffani McCoy, Madeline Wigen, and Jen Lleras.

Wrapping up Wednesday's testimony was Professor Mina Carson, IFS President and History Professor at Oregon State University and Mr. Duncan Wyse, Oregon Business Council.

**DEGREES TO WWII INTERNEES
SCHEDULED**

HB 2823 which allows a state institution of higher education to award honorary degrees to individuals interned during WWII will receive a public hearing in the Senate Education and General Government Committee on Tuesday, May 1, 2007. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives on April 2 on a vote of 56-0. Oregon University System campuses are already developing procedures for receiving requests for honorary degrees, and some have even begun the process of proactively contacting former students who may be eligible.

**BILL TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP OF
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER
EDUCATION SCHEDULED IN THE
SENATE**

HB 2579, the bill to increase the membership of the State Board of Higher Education is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Education and General Government Committee on Tuesday, May 1, 2007. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives on April 16 on a vote of 51-7. The State Board is presently comprised of 11 members, two of which are students who serve a two year term, and one being a faculty member, also serving a two year term and rotating among the seven institutions in the system. This bill would create an additional faculty position, and specify that one faculty member would represent one of the regional or smaller institutions and the other representing one of the three larger universities.



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OUS LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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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