



Legislative Bulletin

**Monday
May, 14
UO Day @ Capitol**

FUN FACTS:

**Wednesday, May 2, 2007
112th day of Session**

House Majority Leader Dave Hunt shared the following facts during the House floor session:

- **57** House Bills passed both House & Senate. Last session only **12** on this day
- **27** Budget Bills passed both House & Senate. Last session **0** on this day

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**Tuesday, May 15
Quarterly Revenue
Forecast will be released**

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Senate Chamber



BUSINESS AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMUNITIES DEMAND SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

At a press conference in the Capitol on Thursday, May 3, representatives from Oregon business and postsecondary education communities came together to demand the legislature put funding for community colleges and universities at the top of the priority list. The message: Legislators can't leave Salem this session without first funding an accessible, affordable, and quality postsecondary education system. ***Fix this first*** is the mantra as the coalition challenges the legislature to invest unallocated funds and new funds that become available to postsecondary education as the number one priority.

The press conference also announced a cooperative effort between representatives from Oregon business, unions, and university and community college administrators, faculty, staff and students to call for a reinvestment in our neglected colleges and universities. The press conference also comes on the heels of the release of the Oregon Progress Board Report which revealed that Oregon is not meeting its goals of getting Oregonians to college, which is taking its toll on our economy. The state missed its benchmark of graduating 38 percent of Oregonians from universities and the number of Oregonians with some postsecondary education stagnated.

Melissa Unger, Executive Director of the Oregon Student Association, was the chief spokesperson at the press conference. Legislators who addressed the press were Rep. Larry Galizio (D-Tigard), Chair of the Education Subcommittee of Ways and

Means, Senator Frank Morse (R-Albany), Senator Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin), both members of the Education Subcommittee and Rep. Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver). Rep. Tobias Reed (D-Beaverton) also attended in a show of support. From the business and postsecondary education communities were Wayne Lei, Director of Environmental Affairs, PGE, Chemeketa Community College President Gretchen Schuette, State Board of Higher Education Directors Jim Francesconi and Dalton Miller-Jones, SEIU Board member and University of Oregon Administrative Staff, Star Holmbert, Portland State University student Courtney Morse and Mt. Hood Community College Student Javier Torres, Western Oregon University faculty member and AFT WOU President, Mark Perlman, and Lane Community College faculty, Jim Salt.

Speakers at the press conference stated that that the Co-Chairs' budget will only further the trends reflected by the Oregon Progress Report by forcing campuses to continue to make cuts, increase tuition, or eliminate courses and programs.

Following the press conference, the Oregon Student Association held a student bake sale in the capitol galleria in a symbolic effort to earn extra funds for the university and community college systems. Students also delivered giant piggybanks to legislators containing postcards signed by students across Oregon that call on legislators to "bank on students" to remind them that investment in postsecondary education will bring greater returns to the state.

Special thank you to those who testified in support of the OUS Budget last week:

Lizbeth Gonzalez, 4-H Student,
Washington County
Martha Schrader, Clackamas County
Commissioner.
Carol Whipple, Rocking C Ranch,
Elkton, Oregon
Ray Jones, Roseburg Forest Products
David Adelsheim, Adelsheim
Vineyards and Winery
Manuel Silveira, V.P. Norpac
Bill Wyatt, Executive Director, Port
of Portland
Tom Potter, Mayor of Portland
Mina Carson, President, IFS
Duncan Wyse, Oregon Business
Council
Geri Richmond, Professor, U.O.
Dick Knight
Dave Ripley, CEO, Pan Street
Video, Inc
Eric Meslow, President, Timbercon,
Inc
Rod Ray, President, Bend Research
Inc.
Steve Pawlowski, Intel Senior
Fellow, Intel Corporation
Harvey Matthews, Oregon Software
Association
Joyce Creswell, Executive Director,
Saturday Academy
Gordon Hanna, Alumni Assoc. U.O.
Kathy Swift, VP, Capital Pacific
Bank
Lynn Lundquist, Oregon Business
Association
Jeff Johnson, Professor, EOU
Jennifer Ruth, Assistant Professor,
PSU
Patricia Schechter, Associate
Professor, PSU
Debbie Kirkland, Parent
Mark Perlman, Professor, WOU
Brian Deitel, Professor
Nick Malone, Professor
Kemble Yates, Professor, SOU
Mark Nelson, Associated Oregon
Faculty
Nancy Becker, Professor, PSU
Dean Braa, Professor, WOU

.....and many others.

BILLS OF INTEREST

HB 2625: Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds for grants to agencies in executive department and certain private companies to acquire fuel cell systems.

*Wednesday, 5/9 1pm HR A
House Revenue Committee*

SB 23: Modifies definition of “eligible student” for purposes of Expanded Options Program.

*Wednesday, 5/9 1pm HR D
House Education Committee*

HB 2891: Requires Employment Relations Board to certify labor organization as exclusive representative of employees if board finds that majority of employees in unit appropriate for bargaining have signed authorizations designating labor organization specified in petition as employees’ bargaining representative and that no other labor organization is currently certified or recognized as exclusive representative of employees in unit.

*Wednesday, 5/9 3pm HR B
Senate Commerce Committee*

SB10: Directs Oregon Government Standards and Practices commission to charge public bodies special government bodies, local governments and local service districts specified amounts for purposes of funding activities of commission.

*Thursday, 5/10 8:30am HR 170
Senate Education & General Government
Committee*

HB 3265: Revises public finance laws and procedures.

HB 2592: Requires mandatory withholding of income tax from distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans.

*Thursday, 5/10 1pm HR A
House Revenue Committee*

SB 334: Changes Oregon Opportunity Grant to Oregon Shared Responsibility Opportunity Grant.

*Friday, 5/11 1pm HR F
House Education Committee*

DEADLINES PASS AND SOME BILLS LEFT TO LANGUISH

Monday, April 30 marked the deadline for Committees to take formal and final action on bills. Nearly 42% of the 2,786 bills introduced didn’t meet the deadline and are now on the “cutting room floor”. The deadline made for a fast-paced two weeks at the end of April.

Committees were extending meetings into the evenings, legislators and lobbyists were rushing to get their bills scheduled and bill drafters were frantically drafting amendments. The deadline is not unusual other than the fact that in past sessions, April’s end would generally mark the mid-way point where bills were required to at least have had one public hearing. In sessions past Committee chairs would hold what is coined as “tap-tap” hearings on measures to create some record of a public hearing held. No “tap-tap” hearings were held this session. Monday’s deadline required a bill to have made its way out of committee completely.

Other signs that the Legislature is committed to a June 29 adjournment: 149 measures have made it through both chambers – double the amount approved at the same time during the 2005 session and 27 budget bills have been sent to the Governor’s desk – compared to zero this time last session.

REGIONAL UNIVERSITY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

On Tuesday, May 1, Oregon Institute of Technology, Western Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University and Southern Oregon University brought a contingent of representatives to the Capitol to meet with legislators and to profile campus missions as well as the students served.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO CHANGE UNDER HOUSE BILL

HB 2579, the bill that increases the membership of the State Board of Higher Education (State Board) was approved by the Senate Education and General Government Committee on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 and approved by the full Senate Friday, May 4 on a vote of 17-10. (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, on the Board, and specifies that one faculty member would represent one of the regional or smaller institutions and the other would represent one of the three larger universities.

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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