



Legislative Bulletin



Upcoming Hearings

Joint Ways & Means Education Sub.

**Mon 6/11 3pm HR F
HB 5012**

Community Colleges Support Fund

Joint Ways & Means Nat. Resources Sub

**Mon 6/11 8:30am HR 174
HB 3543**

Establishes Oregon Climate Change Research Institute.

Higher Education Operating Budget Approved By Ways & Means

On Friday, June 8 the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approved a 2007-2009 higher education operating budget (**Senate Bill 5515**) of \$867.9 million for the Oregon University System.

The budget represents an increase of 18.2% over the 2005-2007 legislatively approved operating budget of \$734.1 million, and is the largest increase directed at student programs/services, educational quality, and workforce and economic development initiatives since 1999. It also signals a major commitment by the Legislature to meet Governor Kulongoski's and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education's ten-year reinvestment plan to improve student access and affordability, high quality learning, innovative research and programs directed at economic development and state priorities, and initiatives to address workforce shortages in Oregon.

George Pernsteiner, Chancellor of the OUS, said, "This budget is a significant first step in reinvesting in Oregon's students, our quality institutions, and the economic future of the state. We are grateful for the considerable time and effort invested by the [Education] subcommittee to ensure that Oregon can work towards the educational levels needed to build a stronger workforce, higher paying jobs, and a dynamic, competitive economy across the state."

For the first time in many years, the budget includes funding to pay for enrollment increases. Another student-focused effort funded at \$580,000 in the subcommittee budget is the Rural Access Initiative. This Eastern Oregon University administered program will develop programs to increase the number of rural Oregonians who go to college. Other OUS priorities funded in the Subcommittee's budget included:

- \$9 million to support the regional campuses and the Cascades Campus of Oregon State University.
- \$10 million in faculty salary increases, to retain quality faculty members, and resources to attract new faculty.

- \$15 for the Engineering and Technology Industry Council (ETIC).

This investment in ETIC leverages millions from key industries who share our goal of increasing the number of technology and knowledge workers, said Bruce Schafer, executive director of ETIC. This investment will help the state build the highly skilled workforce we need to keep companies here, and bring in new organizations with new jobs and high skill wages for Oregonians.

- Oregon's healthcare workforce shortage will be addressed with the subcommittee's investment of almost \$7.4 million in an initiative to increase the number of nurses and healthcare technicians and clinicians. \$4.6 million, will support OIT's medical-related programs and offerings, \$2.8 million) will support nursing courses through the Consortium for Nursing Education in Oregon.
- \$5 million investment in the Statewide Public Services at Oregon State University
- Other funded programs and initiatives in the budget include \$200,000 for the Institute for Natural Resources at OSU; \$1.2 million for Oregon Solutions, a program at the Policy Consensus Institute at Portland State University; \$750,000 for the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab operated by OSU; \$1.4 million for the Integrated Data System to support Pre-K through 20 alignment and ease of student transfer; and \$2.2 million to support utility cost increases, among other budget allocations.

OUS is anxiously awaiting action on the OUS capital construction budget. We anticipate legislative leaders will name a special subcommittee on capital to consider the state's broad array of capital needs and the Oregon Innovation Council industry cluster initiatives, which involve collaborations with OUS research institutes and faculty, such as the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI).

K-12 BUDGET GOES TO THE HOUSE FLOOR

The Joint Committee on Ways & Means approved a record \$6.245 billion budget for K-12 schools late last week, but a delay in the house has postponed a full House vote until Tuesday of next week.

To ensure accountable spending within K-12, \$260 million of the K-12 budget will be distributed through a School Improvement Fund that requires schools to invest in a specific list of results-oriented programs and then be held accountable by reporting back to the state about the specific benefits of those investments.

If the bill is approved by the House on Tuesday, it will be the earliest the K-12 budget has been adopted by the Legislature. The K-12 budget is usually dead last in the cue for budget adoption during a typical legislative session.



Governor names student and PCC chief to State Board of Higher Education

On Tuesday, Governor Kulongoski appointed two new members to the Board. Terms will begin July 1. The Senate Rules committee recommended confirmation of the appointments on Friday, June 8 after both candidates appeared and testified on their appointments.

Hannah Fisher, a freshman at PSU was university affairs director for 2006-07 PSU student government. She will serve a 2 year term and replace Gerry Blakney of WOU.

Preston Pulliams is president of Portland Community College. He was vice chancellor for community colleges for the state of New York prior to becoming PCC president in 2004. When approved Pulliams will serve a 4 year term and replace Gretchen Schutte, president of Chemeketa Community College.

OREGON SENATE HONORS BERNSTINE'S SERVICE

In a unique tribute to PSU President Dan Bernstine, the Oregon State Senate Monday honored his service to PSU and the state of Oregon by passing SCR 17, a resolution honoring his accomplishments and service to the state.

It was the first bill of the day in the Senate and legislators from all geographic regions and political stripes expressed gratitude to Bernstine for growing the capacity of PSU and for seeking to bridge the rural-urban divide.

The resolution was carried by Senator Ginny Burdick (D-Portland) who was visibly emotional at the thought of Dan leaving. Many others stood up to speak as well:

Senator David Nelson (R-Pendleton) talked about his work to bridge the urban/rural divide and bringing PSU to the Pendleton Roundup.

Senator Avel Gordly (I-Portland) cited Theodore Roosevelt and Ecclesiatics in referencing his leadership.

Senator Jackie Winters (R-Salem) talked about Dan's work in diversity and his leadership in the State of Oregon.

Senator Ben Westlund (D-Tumalo) talked about the work they did together to build the Native American Center.

Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) said that Dan propelled PSU to a level of excellence never before perceived. She referenced his fundraising ability.

Senator Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro) talked about his work with the Legislature and his great accomplishments

Senator Margaret Carter (D-Portland) talked about her personal relationship with Dan...his love for her cooking and her pound cake!

President Bernstine plans to leave PSU just after the end of the academic year to become the President and CEO of the Law School Admissions Council in Newtown, PA

The House is expected to take up SCR 17 up in the next week.



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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