

\*\*\* A special Legislative Bulletin *template is in production. Look for the official rollout next Friday*\*\*\*

## **2007 OUS LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN BEGINS PUBLICATION**

Starting today, the Government Relations Staff 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 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.

## **SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER**

If you know of someone who you feel should receive a copy of this newsletter or you would like to subscribe/unsubscribe yourself, you may email Mary\_Robinson@ous.edu. Please include your email address.

## **GOVERNOR KULONGOSKI BEGINS SECOND TERM WITH OPTIMISM**

On Monday, January 8, Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski was sworn in for a second term as Governor of Oregon. In his inaugural address, Kulongoski called for unity to work toward a "brighter future for every Oregonian based on shared opportunity and shared responsibility". "Opportunity" was the key in Kulongoski's message. He spoke of opportunity for Oregon's children, economic opportunity, and opportunity for a sustainable Oregon. Kulongoski closed his message with a challenge to the legislature.

“The test we face today is: Can we ‘see the right’ in a time of prosperity? Or will be too blinded by the light of our good fortune to notice the many among us who are just one opportunity away from their own good fortune?” Governor Kulongoski asked. “This is our moment to decide. This is our children’s moment to flourish. And by extending the hand of generosity, equality and opportunity to all – this is the State of Oregon’s moment to be reborn as America’s State of Grace.”

For the complete text of the speech go to  
[http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/speech/speech\\_010807.shtml](http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/speech/speech_010807.shtml)

## **GOVERNOR KULONGOSKI APPOINTS NEW STAFF**

Governor Kulongoski announced several new appointments as part of a reorganization of his office staff for his second term to help him implement an ambitious agenda around education, health care, energy independence, economic growth and family-wage jobs. On November 29, he named Chip Terhune as his incoming Chief of Staff and Tim Nesbitt to the Deputy Chief of Staff position to oversee education, health care, natural resources and public safety policies. More recently, on January 4, Kulongoski announced the appointment of Allen Alley to serve Deputy Chief of Staff. Alley will oversee economic development, technology, transportation, workforce training, and energy policy areas.

James Sager will continue as the Governor’s Education Policy Advisor but is joined by Mary Ellen Glynn whose focus will be on Higher Education.

## **HOUSE AND SENATE ENACT NEW ETHICS RULES**

On Monday, January 8, the opening day of the 2007 Legislative Session, the House of Representatives adopted new ethics rules governing gifts and travel. This was done as part of Democratic Speaker of the House, Jeff Merkley’s efforts to “make the House more transparent and collaborative.”

*Please note these new rules would bear significant impact on submitting amendments.*

New House rules include:

- 72 Hour Notice for Committee Hearings – All committee chairs must give 72 hours notice before they hold the first hearing on any bill, in an effort to enable interested parties to travel to Salem to participate in the legislative process.
- Content of Hearing Notices – When notice of a hearing is given for a bill, that notice must contain the bill number and a description of the content of the bill. This rule applies to all budget bills as well.
- Public Records Retention – Records that contain information relating to the conduct of the public’s business must be retained by legislators for a period of one year.
- Priority Consideration for Bipartisan Bills – Each member may designate up to two bills for priority consideration by the House. These bills, which must have at least two chief sponsors from each party, will be guaranteed a committee hearing and a work session.
- Proportional Representation on Committees – Membership on the Ways and Means committee and the Emergency Board will be managed to reflect the representation of the two parties in

the House.

- Independent Parliamentarian – Authority to hire and fire the Parliamentarian rests with the entire body, not just the Speaker.
- Robust Rule of 31 – A majority of 31 members are authorized to bring a bill to the floor of the House for consideration. A supermajority (36 votes) is required to change that rule.
- Sponsorship of Bills – Any member may sign on as a sponsor of a bill and will no longer be required to secure the permission of the Chief Sponsor before doing so. (This rule will prevent legislators from keeping members of one party from being able to co-sponsor bills.)
- Bill Referrals – Bills must be referred to the committee of jurisdiction within seven calendar days. This shortens the referral period which previously stood at seven session days.
- Conference Committee Scope of Authority – The scope of authority for conference committees will be limited to the difference between the two versions of a bill. This brings the House in line with the custom of the Senate, and will prevent last minute bill substitutions that have not been heard by and vetted through the committee process.
- Eliminating Fines to Compel Attendance – The \$1000 per day penalty for failure to attend the legislative session will be eliminated. As has historically been the case, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Oregon State Police will once again enforce attendance policies.

The Senate also adopted new rules on Monday:

- Requiring 48-hour notice of committee meetings.
- Prohibiting written notes delivered by Senate pages from lobbyists to members during floor sessions.
- Prohibiting use of cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices within the bar of the Senate.
- Establishing a time period of one year for Senators to retain most public records.

**CHANCELLOR PERNSTEINER AND BOARD DIRECTOR VAN VLIET PRESENT AGENCY UPDATE BEFORE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE** – Scheduled for the House Higher Education Subcommittee next week

On Thursday, January 11, Chancellor Pernsteiner and Board Director Tony Van Vliet presented before the Senate Education and General Government Committee. The Chancellor and Director Van Vliet provided the committee with an overview of the recent activities, strategic planning and work done by the State Board of Higher Education and OUS with regard to alignment with K-12 and community colleges, attendance and graduation from college, and overall student success.

Senator Vicki Walker (D-Eugene), Chair of the Committee, raised several relevant questions regarding student success and student participation in postsecondary education. Specifically, Senator Walker asked why some Oregon high school graduates do not go on to college or choose to attend college out of state. In response, Chancellor Pernsteiner noted that graduates who chose an out-of-state four year institution did so primarily based on the institution's academic reputation and availability of programs, and that a number of students are simply looking to leave home. For those students who choose not to attend college at all, the primary contributing factor is cost.

Director VanVliet stated that he remains wholly optimistic about the work of the State Board and the OUS. He noted that “the Board has made great strides in the areas of inter and intra-institutional cooperation.” Van Vliet continued by stating the Board is “revisiting the mission of our institutions. The Board is engaged in problem solving.”

Chancellor Pernsteiner is scheduled to make the same or a similar presentation to the House Higher Education Subcommittee on Wednesday, January 17 at 1:00 p.m in Hearing Room D.

## **SENATORS DELIVER MESSAGE OF HOPEFUL REFORM TO THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

State Senators Ryan Deckert, Frank Morse, Kurt Schrader, and Ben Westlund met with the State Board of Higher Education to describe a fiscal reform proposal that will build a solid financial solution for Oregon. They noted that this proposal addresses Oregonians’ interests in accountability, state spending, taxes, stabilizing revenue sources, and establishing a rainy day fund for use during economic downturns. Oregon was hit the hardest of any state in the 2001 recession because of this imbalance and the “boom and bust” economic cycle. This reform proposal would reduce taxes for Oregonians, create new jobs, stabilize revenues, establish a rainy day fund and increase economic development in the state, while also focusing on continuous improvement and accountability in government. The Senators stated that this proposal would include a 5% sales tax while making cuts in personal income tax for all Oregonians and providing property tax cuts for some and renters relief; additionally, it would include economic growth incentives. The Senators noted that Oregon is at a crossroads and must undertake fiscal reform now, and needs “passionate advocacy” from the Board of Higher Education and all Oregonians for a proposal of this nature.

## **LEGISLATURE MAKING MOVES TOWARD ANNUAL SESSIONS**

On Monday, the Senate uncharacteristically took immediate action on Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 which establishes deadlines for completion of legislative measures and date of adjournment *sine die* of the regular session of Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly. On a 23-7 vote the Senate approved the resolution setting June 29 as a cut-off date for this year’s regular session and creating a 20-day special session in 2008. The resolution establishes the following legislative schedule:

- January 15-March 2: Senate and House hold floor sessions once or more weekly.
- January 29: Last day for legislators to request bills from Legislative Counsel.
- February 26: Last day for legislators to introduce bills.
- March 5: Senate and House begin daily floor sessions.
- April 30: Last day for Senate committees to work Senate bills and House committees to work House bills (does not apply to any joint committee, Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, Senate Rules Committee, House Revenue Committee, and House Elections, Ethics and Rules Committee).
- May 31: Last day for Senate and House committees to work bills (does not apply to Joint

Ways and Means, Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, Senate Rules Committee, House Revenue Committee, and House Elections, Ethics and Rules Committee).

- June 29: Session adjourns.
- January 2008: Senate President and House Speaker petition legislators calling for a Special Session.
- February 4, 2008: First day of special session.
- February 29, 2008: Last day of special session.

The House Elections, Ethics and Rules Committee hearing on SCR 1 is Friday, January 12. If passed the bill then goes on to the full House for final vote.

### **Education Committees Named**

Committee Chairs have been assigned by leadership in both the Senate and House.

The *Senate Education and General Government Committee* meets every **Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am – 10:15am in HR B**. Chairperson for this committee is Senator Vickie Walker, Vice-Chair Jeff Kruse. Additional members of the committee are Rick Metsger, Frank Morse and Ben Westlund.

The *House Education Committee (full)* meets every **Friday @ 1pm in HR F**. Committee Chair is Representative Peter Buckley, with Vice-chairs John Dallum and Betty Komp.. Other members are Brian Clem, Representative Mitch Greenlick, Jerry Krummel, John Lim, Arnie Roblan and Gene Whisnant.

*House Education Innovation Subcommittee* meets **Tuesday and Thursday @t 1pm in HR D**. Representative Betty Komp will chair this committee Karen Minnis and Arnie Roblan serving as Vice-chairs. Other members include Peter Buckley, Ben Cannon and John Dallum.

*House Education Subcommittee on Higher Education* will meet **Monday and Wednesday @ 1pm in HR D**. Representative Peter Buckley will chair this committee with Brian Clem and Jerry Krummel serving as vice-chairs. Other members include Mitch Greenlick and John Lim.

*Ways and Means Education Subcommittee* meets **Monday through Thursday @ 3pm in HR F**. House members include Chair, Larry Galizio, Phil Barnhart, David Edwards, Bob Jenson and Susan Morgan. Senate members include Vice-chair Richard Devlin, Ryan Deckert, Frank Morse, Bruce Starr and Vickie Walker.

*Joint Education Subcommittee* meets **Monday through Thursday 3pm to 4:30pm in HR F**. Chairperson for this committee is Representative Larry Galizio, Vice-chair Senator Richard Devlin other members include Senator Ryan Deckert, Senator Frank Morse, Senator Bruce Starr, Senator Vickie Walker, Representative Phil Barnhart, Representative David Edwards, Representative Bob

Jenson and Representative Susan Morgan.

*House Workforce and Economic Development* meets **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8am in HR C.** Representative Brad Witt will chair this committee. Vice-chairs will be John Lim and Chuck Riley. Other members include Phil Barnhart, John Dallum, Fred Girod and Paul Holvey.

## **SIGN UP TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS FROM YOUR LEGISLATORS AND COMMITTEES**

Changes in the legislative website make it easy for anyone interested in following the legislative process to receive routine notifications from legislators and committees. Go to the legislative homepage: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/index.html>



Click on the "e-subscribe" button on the right:

Enter your e-mail address and a password, and then choose the legislators and committees from whom you'd like to hear.

## **LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE:**

You can obtain a copy of the Legislative Schedule listing upcoming hearings and activities of the various committees on the world wide web at:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us> and go to committee schedules.

## **PARKING HINTS AT THE STATE CAPITOL**

Capital Mall parking structure keys may be purchased @ DAS, 1225 Ferry St. SE U100 - Parking and Commuting Services 503-378-2865 x 233. The cost is \$15 deposit and key purchase minimum of \$10 up to \$600. For a purchase of \$100 you receive \$5 free.

Street parking around the Capital is provided by City of Salem Community Enforcement @ 340 Chemeketa St. 503-588-6133 Meter Keys can be purchased with a \$16.00 deposit Scratch off permits are available from \$10 to \$650 dollars.

You can also purchase an all day parking pass which can be used in any 2 hour metered parking space within the capitol mall (as defined on the back of the pass). They can be purchased in Room 49 at the State Capitol.

Additionally, the "yellow" lot, a surface lot three blocks north of the capitol (Marion and Summer Streets), is also available on a first come-first served basis. You can purchase permits at the lot for \$6.00.

## **UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS**

Senate Education and General Government

Informational Meeting

Tuesday, January 16

8:15 a.m.

Hearing Room B

For Agenda see:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/agenda/webagendas.htm>

House Education Higher Education Subcommittee

Wednesday, January 17

1:00 p.m.

Hearing Room D

For Agenda see:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/agenda/webagendas.htm>

Senate Business, Transportation and Workforce Development

Monday, January 15

1:00 p.m.

Hearing Room B

Possible Introduction of Legislative Concepts

Senate Finance and Revenue

Monday, January 15

8:30 A.M.

Hearing Room A

Tuesday, January 16

8:30 A.M.

Hearing Room A

Wednesday, January 17

8:30 A.M.

Hearing Room A

For Agendas see:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/agenda/webagendas.htm>

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Tuesday, January 16

Wednesday, January 17

Thursday, January 18

3:00 p.m., Hearing Room D

For Agendas see:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/agenda/webagendas.htm>

## **BILLS OF INTEREST**

SB 152 Introduced By Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski at the request of the Oregon University System

HB 2198 Introduced By Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski at the request of the Oregon University System

HB 2199 Introduced By Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski at the request of the Oregon University System

