



# Public and Government Affairs Update

April 2007, Issue No. 7

## 2007 OREGON LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### Senate Finance and Revenue Committee boosts capital budget

*April 11*—This morning the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee, chaired by Senator Ryan Deckert (D-Beaverton), amended the higher education capital construction bill (SB 5516), increasing the overall debt authorizations above the recently released Ways and Means Co-Chair budget.

The new authorized debt for higher education is now estimated at eight percent less than the Governor's original General Obligation Bond debt, and 23 percent less than the Governor's original lottery bond debt.

The Co-Chairs had proposed cutting Oregon University System capital construction spending by 83 percent.

The bill was moved to Ways and Means with a do-pass recommendation. This means that it would now take a majority vote in Ways and Means to reduce the amounts now incorporated in the bill.

This places the university in a stronger position heading into the Ways and Means hearings.

### Ways and Means Hearing on Campus Tonight

#### \*\* ROOM CHANGE: 180 PLC

The legislative Ways and Means Committee is holding a community hearing on the state budget today at 6:30 p.m. in 180 PLC (instead of Lillis 282). In an April 9 e-mail to all UO employees, UO President Dave Frohnmayer said:

“This is your chance, either by speaking publicly or by submitting a written statement, to communicate directly to the state's budget decision makers... The co-chairs' budget would severely limit access for Oregonians, could require significant tuition increases, and would stall our efforts to raise faculty salaries. It would degrade the quality of our public universities, a conclusion supported almost daily by editorials in Oregon newspapers. The co-chairs' budget is only one step in a long process, and it important for members of the Ways and Means Committee to hear from those who will be affected by their decisions.”

#### Key messages

**Capital Construction:** With today's vote by the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue, the message to members of Ways and Means now changes. The amended bill is much closer to the governor's budget request. The university applauds the actions of the Finance and Revenue Committee and urges Ways and Means to support the governor's original request.

**Revenue Sources:** Some members of the Legislature are interested in hearing views on increasing state revenue in order to pay for the governor's proposed budget. The key messages:

- \* Do whatever it takes to adequately fund education at all levels, including raising new revenue if necessary; and
- \* Do not adjourn until the governor's original budget request for higher education is funded.