From: salem_update-bounces@lists.oregonstate.edu on behalf of Mills, Jock
To: CAS DeanStaff; CAS Unit Leaders; Salem Update Listserv
Subject: [Salem Update] OBA Tax Proposal and more
Date: Friday, April 24, 2009 4:40:26 PM
Attachments: ATT11919974.txt

OBA offers possible taxes
This week in an effort to move toward raising additional revenues to help solve Oregon's projected $4 to 5 billion shortfall for next biennium, the Oregon Business Association announced a plan to offer up some $340 million in taxes. Here is a link to an article in Thursday's Oregonian:

http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/news/1240457115176820.xml&coll=7

Here is a link to the OBA plan:
http://www.oba-online.org/membership/oba_forum/2009/04/22/oba-unveils-corporate-revenue-plan-protect-oregons-economy-and-preserve-critical-state-services/

Aside from whether the taxes offered up by the OBA will be sufficient or will be passed by the legislature, one of the most notable elements in the Oregonian article is the differing perspective on the state's budget situation taken by Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem) and Speaker of the House, Dave Hunt (D-Clackamas County).

Courtney:
"I can simply say that on April 22 at 1:17 in the afternoon we have no path."
"I'm growing very concerned."
"We have not yet gotten serious in this building about how we're going to fill this hole."

Hunt:
"I can see a very clear path of how we're going to get out of here by June 30."

For more on the Hunt/Courtney relationship, visit Jeff Mape's blog:
http://blog.oregonlive.com/mapesonpolitics/2009/04/a_peek_at_the_courtneyhunt_rel.html

Ways and Means Hearings continue over the next week
Meanwhile, back in the Ways and Means Committee, Committee members have begun a long process of travelling around the state taking public testimony on a possible 30% budget reduction to state spending, and seeking comments on how to address the state's challenges.

Kudos to all those who have turned out on behalf of higher education, and such programs as OSU Extension, Agriculture Experiment Station, and Forest Research Lab, among others. A highlight next Wednesday will be the committee's visit to Bend where that community is dealing with a suggestion from Co-Chair Senator Margaret Carter that the legislature consider the closure of the OSU Cascades Branch Campus. If you would like information on how to testify, don't hesitate to contact me.

Here is the Committee's remaining schedule:

Saturday, April 25 – Pendleton

Oregon National Guard Armory
2100 N.W. 56th Drive
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Saturday, April 25 – Ontario
Treasure Valley Community College
650 College Boulevard
3 to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29 – Bend
OSU Cascades Branch Campus, COCC
Cascades Hall Room 117
5:30 to 8 p.m.

Thursday, April 30 - Ashland
Southern Oregon University
Rogue River Room
Stevenson Union
1250 Siskiyou Boulevard
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, May 1 – Eugene
University of Oregon
Lillis Hall, Room 182
955 East 13th Avenue
1 to 3:30 p.m.

OSU DAY
Many many thanks to those who participated in OSU Day in Salem on Tuesday. The day involved not only an opportunity to showcase OSU programs and the students who participate in them but also enabled more than 60 meetings with legislators and their staff regarding the importance of funding higher education.

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