From: osu_supporters-bounces@lists.oregonstate.edu on behalf of Mills, Jock
To: osu_supporters@lists.oregonstate.edu
Subject: [OSU Supporters] One week to go . . . or less
Date: Friday, June 22, 2007 4:24:43 PM
Attachments: ATT5215178.txt

One week to go, but the legislature is moving as if they may be done even sooner.

The surest sign that the legislature is heading for home is the emergence of the *sine die* resolution that adjourns the legislature for the session. This afternoon SCR 20 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee. Approval of the resolution by the committee merely enables it to be available to sail onto the Senate floor when the time is right. Capitol insiders still do not expect the legislature to finish its work much before the end of next week.

As for higher education, the primary issue left is the capital budget. This week the leadership established a special Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction and Bonding, co-chaired by the Ways and Means co-chairs, Sen. Kurt Schrader (D-Canby) and Rep. Mary Nolan (D-Portland). Members of the subcommittee include: Sen. Richard Devlin (D-Lake Oswego), Sen. David Nelson (R-Pendleton), Rep. Larry Galizio (D-Tigard), and Rep. Bruce Hanna (R-Roseburg).

As described last week, the list of capital projects the subcommittee will consider is massive – ranging from hundreds of millions for the expansion of light rail, to funding a new state hospital, to re-vamping the Capitol's office wings. During the last two days of this week, OUS, the Governor's office and the Co-Chairs have been in a number of discussions regarding what higher education projects will make the list, and for some, what match might be necessary.

The special subcommittee is expected to meet on Friday – potentially as you read this. The committee will likely not take testimony, and once the list of final projects becomes "officially" public, it is unlikely that there will be changes by the committee. Nevertheless there are always issues that may come up that could require some changes.

Meanwhile, back on operating budget, the OUS operating budget has sailed through both House and Senate. The Governor has scheduled a signing ceremony for all four education bills – Head Start, K-12, Community Colleges and the Oregon University System for next Thursday at 1:15 on the Capitol steps.

The Ways and Means Education Subcommittee has approved SB 334 which authorizes the transition from the current "opportunity grant" to the "Shared Responsibility Model". Given the number of complexities with the transition, we anticipate a high degree of legislative interest as the transition proceeds.

The tuition interest issue appears to be dead for the session. Even so, the issue will be back during the interim and is expected to be raised during the February 2008 special session.

Both Chambers are expected to meet over the weekend.

More next week.

Jock

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