From: salem_update-bounces@lists.oregonstate.edu on behalf of Mills, Jock
To: CAS DeanStaff; CAS Unit Leaders; Salem Update Listserv
Subject: [Salem Update] Deadline,Ways & Means hearings and Statewide Champions
Date: Friday, April 27, 2007 2:54:19 PM
Attachments: ATT13585597.txt

In this issue . . .

☞ League of Women Voters forum in Corvallis – Saturday, April 28, 9:30 AM, Corvallis/Benton County Library.

- Legislative deadlines starting to separate the wheat from the chaff
- Ways and Means considers Oregon University System Operating Budget
- 62 legislators sign a letter seeking increased funding for OSU Statewides
- OSU Day a big success – thanks to all who participated

Legislative Deadlines

With a few exceptions April 30th is the last day House Committees can consider House bills and Senate Committees can consider Senate bills. So if your bill hasn't been scheduled for a hearing and work session on Monday, it is most likely dead. As a result, committee agendas this week have been jam-packed with bills. (Actually, bills never really "die" in the legislative process until the final "sine die" gavel falls. There is always the possibility that a dead bill can be resurrected by getting "stuffed" into another bill in the form of an amendment.)

Meanwhile, the dockets for consideration of bills in both the House and Senate floor sessions are rapidly filling up as committees push bills out in an effort to meet the April 30th deadline. The log jam isn't getting any better in the House where, during the last two days, representatives devoted multiple hours of debate to defeat two bills. On Wednesday, Democrats killed a Republican sponsored bill seeking to fund state troopers. They opposed it because it did not have an identified funding source. On Thursday, the Republicans killed Democrats' "healthy children's" bill because it did – a hefty increase in cigarette taxes. Opponents claim the cigarette tax will not be sufficient to fully fund the program in subsequent biennia, resulting in further reliance on general funds.

Little progress is being made on the overall budget deal since legislators are waiting for the next economic forecast in mid-May. That forecast will indicate if there may be more revenues available during the next biennium than was forecasted in March. Rumors are that while general fund revenues are expected to be flat, income from the lottery will be up. But we need to wait two weeks before we really know what it happening. The May forecast will be used to set budget levels for the 07-09

biennium.

Ways and Means consideration of OUS operating budget

This week the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education conducted four days of hearings on the Oregon University System (OUS) operating budget. The committee heard testimony from a series of witnesses during the formal hearings as well as public hearings on Wednesday and Thursday. Thanks to Alumni Association Board of Directors President Eric Schoenstein, and Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Mark Kralj we delivered a joint letter of support to the committee on Thursday. It is worth reading and I have attached the text. (Due to the letterhead, the actual letter is 2MB in size and will gum up your e-mail.)

Thanks also to a number of individuals who made time to testify in support of the OSU Statewides, including: Carol Whipple a forester (among many other things) from Elkton, David Adelsheim (Adelsheim vineyards), Lizbeth Gonzalez (4H Techwizard from Hillsboro), Manuel Silveira (Norpac); Ray Jones (Roseburg Forest Products), and Clackamas County Commissioner Martha Schrader. Yes, the wife of Ways and Means Co-chair Kurt Schrader whose budget eliminated $5 million from the statewides' budget.

One issue surfaced during the hearings that had not previously been raised in previous discussions: Should the legislature fill in the reductions taken by the co-chairs by shifting general funds from the Shared Responsibility Model (SRM) to OUS? The question is driven by two issues.

First, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission which will administer the SRM did not allocate some $10 million of the funds the legislature provided for financial aid during the current biennium. While there are a number of reasons OSAC could not allocate the funds -- including an inflexible budget note that accompanied the appropriation – legislators are wondering aloud if OSAC will be able to push out an additional $40 million included in the Governor's and co-chairs' budgets for financial aid.

Second, universities have indicated that funding SRM while cutting funds the universities need to educate students once they get there will mean that students will not be able to take the classes they need to graduate. The legislature is stimulating demand, with out providing a supply.

OUS has indicated that the funding levels for SRM and OUS are predicated on an equilibrium that balances tuition levels, financial aid, and general fund appropriations to the universities. By cutting $35 million from the universities, the co-chairs' budget disrupts the equilibrium. Now legislators are seeking to re-calibrate the equilibrium by shifting funds from the SRM back to the universities.

Shifting money from the SRM not only diminishes the amount of financial aid for students, it takes money away from two other sectors – community colleges and

private universities – that also have students on financial aid.

How the legislature resolves this issue will likely be a matter for back room deals, but in the meantime, the question has created tension between students and universities as well as between the Governor and the legislature.

62 Statewide Champions

During the last month legislators from both parties in both chambers have been circulating a letter of support for the OSU Statewide Public Service programs – the Agricultural Experiment Station, Forest Research Lab, and Extension. Next week they will deliver a letter seeking the full $15 million policy option package for the statewides that was recommended by the state board of higher education. The Governor's budget had pared the recommendation down to $5.5 million, while the co-chairs' budget zeroed the item out. Here is a list of the 62 members who signed the letter. A majority of the members from both the House and the Senate serving on the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee have signed onto the letter. (Also a majority of both chambers -- 22 in the Senate and 42 in the House -- have signed on.)

Senate (22 out of 30 members)
Jason Atkinson (R-Central Point/Grants Pass)
Brad Avakian (D-NE Washington/NW Multnomah Counties)
Alan Bates (D-Ashland/Medford)
Roger Beyer (R-Molalla)
Kate Brown (D-Portland, Senate Majority Leader)
Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin)
Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day)
Gary George (R-McMinnville)
Larry George (R-Sherwood)
Avel Gordly (D-NE,SE Portland)
Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose)
Jeff Kruse (R-Roseburg)
Bill Morrisette (D-Springfield)
Frank Morse (R-Corvallis/Albany)
David Nelson (R-Pendleton)
Floyd Prozanski (D-Lane, Douglas, Coos Counties)
Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro)
Joanne Verger (D-Coos Bay to Lincoln City)
Vicki Walker (D-Eugene)
Ben Westlund (D-Tumalo)
Doug Whitsett (R-Klamath Falls)
Jackie Winters (R-Salem)

House (42 out of 60 members)
Jeff Barker (D-Aloha)
Phil Barnhart (D-Central Lane and Linn Counties)

Vicki Berger (R-Salem)
Deborah Boone (D-Cannon Beach)
Brian Boquist (R-Dallas)
Scott Bruun (R-West Linn/Tualatin)
Chuck Burley (R-Bend)
Tom Butler (R-Ontario/Baker City/Burns-Hines)
Kevin Cameron (R-Salem, Turner & Aumsville)
Brian Clem (D-Salem)
Jean Cowan (D-Newport)
John Dallum (R-The Dalles)
Chris Edwards (D-West Eugene/Junction City)
Sal Esquivel (R-Medford)
Linda Flores (R-Clackamas)
Bill Garrard (R-Klamath Falls)
Sara Gelser (D-Corvallis)
Vic Gilliam (R-Molalla/Silverton)
George Gilman (R-Several Rural Counties and Crater Lake)
Fred Girod (R-Stayton)
Bruce Hanna (R- Roseburg)
Bob Jenson (R-Pendleton)
Betty Komp (D-Gervais/Salem/Woodburn/Brooks)
Wayne Krieger (R-Brookings/Gold Beach/Bandon)
Jerry Krummel (R-Wilsonville/Sherwood)
John Lim (R-Gresham)
Greg Macpherson (D-Lake Oswego/SW Portland)
Ron Maurer (R-Grants Pass)
Karen Minnis (R-Wood Village)
Susan Morgan (R-Roseburg)
Donna Nelson (R-McMinnville)
Andy Olson (R-Albany)
Tobias Read (D-Beaverton)
Dennis Richardson (R-Central Point/Rogue Valley)
Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay)
Mike Schaufler D-Happy Valley/SE Portland)
Wayne Scott (R-Oregon City and Canby)
Greg Smith (R-Heppner)
Patti Smith (R-Corbett)
Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer)
Gene Whisnant (R-Rural Deschutes County)
Brad Witt (D-Clatskanie)

If you are in contact with any of the members above, please take a moment to thank them for their pledge of support for the OSU Statewides.

OSU Day a big success – thanks to all who participated

We are still sweeping up all the dust created by the showing for OSU Day last week.

Early next week we are seeking to post on our website pictures from the event. In the meantime, many people across OSU and across the state deserve special thanks for the time and effort they put into OSU Day this session. We are in the process of writing to you directly to thank you for your efforts.

The danger of starting to thank anyone is that I will leave someone off. With that in mind, a special thanks to NW Natural which provided a significant portion of the funding for the event. HP provided cameras and printers as we took pictures and distributed them to legislators and their staff. The Alumni Association and Foundation also provided support.

Thanks to Mike Rich and ASOSU President Michael Olson who both spoke at the event and to the members of the Extension Citizen Advisory Network who participated in the event and were diligent in seeking out their legislators during the day to review the impacts of the co-chairs' budget on OSU. (Matt Epstein, a member of ECAN from Southern Oregon deserves special mention for his efforts in the preceding weeks as he organized OSU's presence at the Ways and Means field hearings held across the state.)

Finally, special thanks to Heather Bené who worked tirelessly (well, actually I think she did get a little tired a couple of times) in orchestrating many of the details that went into the event. Kudos as well to Shelly Houghtelling and Kate Sanders in University Events and staff from across the campus who represented OSU well. And to Betsy Hartley who brought a significant showing of students. (All those who helped will be hearing from us . . . just as soon as we can get through this Ways and Means mess.)

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