



# Legislative Bulletin

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## Around The Capitol:

**ETIC Day March 5**

## Citizen's Guide to the Oregon Legislative Process

Oregon's legislative process, unlike some legislatures in the nation, is dominated by legislative committees, where most of the work to shape legislation and public policy is done. Committee members consider the testimony of many groups including Oregon citizens. This page offers many tools to help citizens participate in our legislative process.

[http://www.leg.state.or.us/citizen\\_guide/](http://www.leg.state.or.us/citizen_guide/)



## GOVERNOR URGES PASSAGE OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY MODEL

On Tuesday, February 20, **Governor Ted Kulongoski** testified before the Senate Education and General Government Committee supporting passage of **SB 334**, his proposal before the Legislature to reform the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) program to a new model called the "Shared Responsibility Model." The Shared Responsibility Model will make post-secondary education truly affordable for every student in Oregon.

"With rising tuition, fees and living expenses, the transition from high school to college now looms as an economic cavern for the children of many of our working families – even those with incomes that place them solidly in the middle class," said the Governor. "This is a pioneering bill that will broaden the path to hope and opportunity for tens of thousands of Oregonians – and help us gain ground in the global economy."

Governor Kulongoski urged passage of the Shared Responsibility Model (SRM) that would distribute the costs of attending college between the government, students and their families. The state's contribution would be determined on a sliding scale based on family income, with a student expected to personally contribute what they could earn working full time during the summer and part-time during the school year.

Governor Kulongoski's proposal would be phased in over the next two biennia, increasing the average OOG by nearly \$900 to \$2,103 in 2008-09. An estimated 42,000 students would be eligible for the program when implemented, according to a recent estimate. The proposal builds on the Governor's leadership last legislative session to secure a 77 percent increase in funding for the OOG program that provides financial assistance to low-income students and, for

the first time, make part-time students eligible for the grants.

The Shared Responsibility Model was developed at the Governor's request by the State Board of Higher Education with participation of students, community colleges, private colleges, the business community and foundations.

Also testifying on Tuesday was **State Senator Kurt Schrader (D-Canby)**. Senator Schrader sponsored the bill at the request of Governor Kulongoski. Schrader, who is also Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, fully supports the restructuring of the OOG based on the Shared Responsibility Model. Schrader was active throughout the interim in the development of the SRM. In his testimony, Schrader voiced his commitment to passage of the bill and full funding of the model. Schrader suggested that restructuring the OOG could be the "legacy" of the 2007 Legislative Assembly.

**Tim Nesbitt**, Oregon State Board of Higher Education member and Co-Chair of the Access and Affordability Working Group (AAWG) was joined by **Nan Poppe**, President of the Extended Learning Campus of Portland Community College and Co-Chair of the AAWG. Nesbitt and Poppe detailed the functions of the SRM and the impact of implementation would be making college "truly affordable" for all Oregonians who commit themselves to achieving post-secondary education. Nesbitt noted that the SRM is a "hand up" and not a "hand out".

<http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/pdf/letters/srmodel.pdf>

To read the Governor's testimony, go to:

<http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/pdf/letters/sb334.pdf>

## **Bills of Interest:**

**HB 2726** Establishes state policy relating to state-funded research that benefits private enterprise. Will require certain state agencies that make research grants to ensure that one purpose of research is to keep or create jobs in Oregon

**SJR 22** Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to require annual sessions of Legislative Assembly. Provides that session in odd-numbered year may not exceed 120 calendar days, and session in even-numbered year may not exceed 45 calendar days. Allows extensions by affirmative vote of two-thirds of members of each house. Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at special election held on same date as next primary election.

**SB 652** Modifies definition of eligible student for purposes of Expanded Options Program. Modifies requirements for notification of student and student's parent or guardian of program and duplicate course offerings. Directs school district and eligible post-secondary institution to negotiate in good faith financial agreement for payment of student instructional costs. Allows public charter schools to participate in program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

## ***Senate confirms James Francesconi to State Board of Higher Education***

Governor Kulongoski's appointment of James L. Francesconi, to serve on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, was confirmed Wednesday, February 21 by the Oregon State Senate on a vote of 28-1. Senator Kate Brown carried the appointment on the Floor of the Senate.

Francesconi will replace Board member Tim Nesbitt who recently accepted the Deputy Chief of Staff position in the Governor's Office. Francesconi's term on the Board will begin immediately and continue through June 2008, completing Nesbitt's term, at which time Francesconi will be eligible for re-appointment.

Francesconi is currently an attorney with the law firm of Haglund, Kelley. He also serves as a member of the United Way Board, McDonald Center Board, the Portland Business Alliance's Education Committee, and the Portland Regional Business Plan Task Force. Well known as a champion of all levels of education from K-12 to higher education, Francesconi is a co-founder of Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN), which provides before- and after-school programs, and the Portland Workforce Alliance, which partners employers with high schools providing mentorships and work experience.

Previously, Francesconi served as a city commissioner on the Portland City Council for two terms, from 1997 to 2004, managing Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Department of Transportation, and Fire and Emergency Services.

Francesconi received a B.A. in Humanities from Stanford University, and his J.D. from the University of Oregon. He is a member of the Oregon State Bar.



James Francesconi

## ***OUS 2006 Fact Book Available Online***

We're pleased to announce that the 2006 Fact Book for the Oregon University System is now live on our website at [www.ous.edu](http://www.ous.edu), under Featured Documents on the left side of the page, or go directly to the index page at <http://www.ous.edu/dept/ir/reports/fb2006/index.php>.

The Fact Book contains current and historical trend data in the broad areas of Student Enrollment and Demographics, Graduation Rates, System Organization and Performance; Degrees Awarded; Tuition and Financial Aid; Faculty; and Budget and Facilities. The Fact Book is published every two years by the OUS Office of Institutional Research.

The OUS Fact Book is produced every two years by Institutional Research.



### ***Troops to Teachers:***

The first of the Oregon Independent College Association's (OICA) bills was heard Friday, February 16 by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. HB 2577, the "Troops to Teachers" bill would add independent college teacher education programs to the eligible list for veterans wishing to pursue education degrees. The program awards scholarships up to the value of public university tuition for Oregon veterans wishing to prepare for teaching careers. The statute was enacted at the end of the 2005 legislative session and failed to include independent institutions. The OICA reported that after several months to develop and implement the rules for the program in time for the 2006 academic year there were only nine initial eligible applicants. Six of those applicants were headed for independent institutions and did not qualify for the scholarship.

OICA's bill will include independent colleges as eligible institutions and, if the program is re-funded this session, OICA expects a larger number of applicants to qualify at teacher education programs in both public and private sector institutions.

The Committee unanimously passed HB 2577 to the Joint Ways & Means Committee, where it will await funding later in the Session. The OICA and other proponents of the "Troops to Teachers" program are seeking a \$150,000 appropriation to continue the program during the coming biennium.

## **Oregon Students Rally For Increased Funding for Higher Education**

Today the Oregon Student's Association rallied for increased funding for higher education on the front steps of the Capitol. Among the many Associated student body Presidents, Governor Ted Kulongoski, Rep. Larry Galizio (D-Tigard), Sen. Gene Whisnant (R-Sisters) and Chemeketa Community College President Gretchen Schuette addressed students, faculty, administrators and staff of Oregon's seven universities and seventeen community colleges. Governor Kulongoski asked for help to pass his higher education budget and to raise the state's corporate minimum income tax to expand financial aid and the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

"The opportunity to afford a higher education has slipped away from too many young people in Oregon," the Governor said on the Capitol steps. "And at this critical point in our educational system, we should do everything we can to help those with the interest and ability to pursue a college education." Kulongoski said.

The Governor told the crowd that his 2007-2009 budget begins to reverse the years of disinvestment in post-secondary education, starting with a 17% increase for community colleges and 15% increase for public universities. The increased funding would help upgrade classrooms, laboratories, residence halls and reduce student-faculty ratio.

The Governor's recommended budget also includes increasing the Oregon Opportunity Grant through a new financial aid program called the Shared Responsibility Model. The model would be funded by raising the corporate minimum income tax and would help all middle-class Oregonians again afford college.

The corporate minimum income tax is currently set at \$10 a year and has not been increased since 1931 – when tuition at the University of Oregon was \$78.57 a year. Today tuition at the University of Oregon is \$6,000 a year.



### **OUS WEBSITE FEATURES QUICK LINK TO OUS LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION**

Legislative Resources provides easy access to Session 2007 information on the Oregon University System (OUS) for legislators, legislative staff, university representatives, the public, and other interested parties. The site links to documents and information pertaining to the OUS budget request and initiatives for 2007-2009, including materials presented during legislative testimony, and is designed to supplement and navigate to other relevant information housed on the OUS website.

Access the site at:  
<http://www.ous.edu/about/legnote/index.php>



## **Upcoming Deadlines**

**February 26: Last day for measure introduction**

**March 1: Revenue Forecast Released**

**March 5: Daily Floor Sessions Begin**

**April 20: Fiscal Impact Statements due for bills coming out of 1<sup>st</sup> chamber**

**April 30: Last day for work sessions for bills in 1<sup>st</sup> chamber.**



## ***Education Subcommittee visits Portland State University***

On Wednesday, February 21, the Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means met at Portland State University for a hearing on the Governor's Education Enterprise and to receive open testimony from the public. The hearing was one of several off-site legislative hearings slated across the state to make the legislative process a truly "open process".

**Rep. Larry Galizio (D-Tigard)** and subcommittee members toured the PSU campus getting a first hand look at deferred maintenance and repair needs at Lincoln Hall, the infrastructure and equipment needs in the labs at the Science II building and visited the Portland Center for Advanced Technology (PCAT) building.

**President Dan Bernstine** welcomed the committee to Portland State University. Bernstine provided written comments which noted that a recent economic impact study of the university found that the university's direct budget expenditures and other contributions to the economy generate more than \$1 billion for the economy.

\$447 million in payroll  
\$260 million in purchases with over 7,900 vendors  
\$230 million for student aid  
\$56 million in real estate development  
\$75 million in other contributions

**Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams** addressed the committee expressing his appreciation for the committee's traveling outside of the Capitol. He expressly thanked the Chair for making higher education a higher focus for the state. He stated PSU is the #1 industry in Portland, and further noted that the commissioners hear a lot from the public about the economic security of the city and stated that PSU serves as a major contributor to that economic security. He expressed his full support for the funding request of higher education and the capital construction request for PSU. Adams offered his support of SB 334 (Shared Responsibility Model) as well. He noted that the bill, along with the budget proposed by Governor Kulongoski, will go a long way to improve the financial resources needed by Oregon students.

**James Sager, Governor Kulongoski's Education Policy Advisor**, then provided an overview of the Governor's "Education Enterprise". Sager identified the mission of the Education Enterprise as insuring that Oregonians possess the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in learning, work and citizenship in Oregon and the global economy. He stated that much of the work has been to identify how to unify the education sectors into a single enterprise. The work of the

education partners over the past 18 months has made real strides in looking at alignment. Sager stated that the Governor asked the sectors to look out to 2025 to determine what Oregon would need to have an educated citizenry. The work has focused on people between the ages of 2 and 42. The work is addressing Oregon's changing population and demographics to identify and address the special needs of Oregon's growing Latino population. Sager noted that research tells us that students from families whose native language is other than English have special needs and require special instructional methods. The work is also looking at facility needs for Oregon's public education. Sager reiterated that decisions reflected in the budget will be driven by program needs.

Sager then outlined the goals of the Education Enterprise as being well prepared learners, successful progression of learners throughout their learning environments, quality education, workers have the training they need to raise skills and help Oregon businesses remain competitive in a global economy and that the Education Enterprise services further benefit Oregon's economy and communities. Sager reported that the Education Enterprise will contain performance measures and in that consideration, all sector's performance measures were reviewed and the recommendation of the groups was to focus on the most critical PMs to move the state toward the five goals of the Enterprise.

**Sen. Walker (D-Eugene)** noted the Senate Education and General Government committee heard about the Shared Responsibility Model, SB 334, on Feb. 20 and she fully anticipates moving the bill out of committee and to W&M.

**Sen Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin)** asked Mr. Sager how committed Governor Kulongoski is toward retaining funds for enrollment growth at OUS institutions. Devlin stated that if you make it possible for more students to attend, but funding is not continued in the budget for enrollment growth, institutions are placed in a bind. Sager responded that the Governor is very committed to enrollment growth at OUS and at the community colleges for basic support for students.

**Rep. Susan Morgan (R-Myrtle Creek)** asked what consideration was given to the impacts the projects and program in future budget years. She stated that the Legislature has "seen the staggering effect of roll up costs." Sager responded that the "thinking is if we educate and train people, we reduce pressure on social services and the criminal justice system. At some point in time we have to make the policy decision that that's the direction we're going. We need to "drive the economy" to reduce strain on those other services, philosophically, that's where the Governor is. We asked for everything we think students need. Can't do it in one step, but can begin to build hope in people. "



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## OUS LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

The Government Relations office of the Chancellor's Office 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](mailto: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 to provide 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 you feel should receive a copy of this newsletter or you would like to subscribe/unsubscribe yourself, you may email [Mary\\_Robinson@ous.edu](mailto:Mary_Robinson@ous.edu). Please include your email address.

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