



EASTERN OREGON  
UNIVERSITY

## Governing Board of Trustees

January 21, 2016

### Legislative Update

#### Key Issues

- CSL (Current Service Level) roll-up: We are planning to advocate for a budget note and Governor's directive to include CSL roll-up in the budget base for the public universities. We have long had to fight each session for the same baseline percentage increase that is automatically applied to other state-supported programs.
- Gross Receipts Tax: A proposed ballot measure would institute a gross receipts tax on companies doing more than \$25 million in annual business in Oregon. It would bring in approximately \$2.5 billion per year.
- Minimum Wage: Proposals are to increase from \$9.25/hour to \$13.50/hour or \$15/hour over a three year period. Many people expect to see a staggered implementation across Oregon with adjustments made for different geographic and socioeconomic regions.
- PERS Roll-up costs: The State is facing billions in costs to fund the Public Employee Retirement System. Costs are passed on to schools and universities like EOU. Without additional support on the above-mentioned CSL, schools are looking at reducing costs in other places to make the required funding commitments.
- High School Graduation Rates: The Governor is focused on improving high school graduation rates and has announced the creation of a new position on her staff to work on education innovation. We see this as an opportunity for EOU as we work with first-generation students and leverage programs like Eastern Promise.
- Emergency planning at colleges and universities: invitations to participate in the Governor's statewide task force on emergency preparedness and response at colleges and universities are expected to be sent out next week. This task force stems from the Umpqua Community College shooting and the subsequent Governor's statewide meeting with community college and university presidents held last month. The group will develop platforms for how to deal with major crisis situations and create support models where sister institutions can assist.
- Workgroups: There are multiple work groups engaged in the review and implementation of several higher education bills ranging from reporting on the demographics and sexual orientation of students to the Oregon Promise. We are tracking these workgroups.
- DAS and LFO (Department of Admin. Services and Legislative Fiscal Office) have asked HECC for their agency funding requests in the February session. The HECC has submitted the following list:

- Umpqua CC funding support
- Budget note re: Oregon State University (OSU) statewide programs (Extension)
- Distribution of \$6.8M for accelerated funding (SB 418)
- Capital projects (emergency funding for shortfalls e.g. Southern Oregon University (SOU) building project)

## Important Dates

**Jan. 13:** House Higher Education Committee hearing in Salem. Invited testimony from Trustees on University Governance. I have visited with David Nelson and he is planning to attend and testify for EOU. The board secretaries are working on talking points for the trustees. I plan to be in Salem for the hearing and am working on some meetings with legislative leaders, regional leaders, Governor's office and others. I believe this is a good time to float the tax credit concept and gather support for a bill in the 2017 full session.

**Jan. 14:** Senate Education Committee, HECC meeting and President's Council – all in Salem  
We have setup the public universities to visit with the Senate Education Committee about an additional \$15M in funding for support of student retention and completion. I will be working with Provost Witte and others to gather data for this presentation. On the same day, the HECC will be meeting, as will the Public Universities President's Council. Agendas for these groups are forthcoming and I will keep you posted.

**Feb. 4:** Board Chairs and University President's at Capitol and President's Council in Salem.  
This day is planned around meetings for leadership at the universities and the legislature. We are working on the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House and Republican and Democratic leaders. The focus of these meetings is positioning the public universities for the \$15M in additional funding.

### **Feb. 11:** Public University Day

Staff in University Advancement (UA) and at the other schools are working on a large-scale effort to dramatically increase higher education's visibility in the legislature. We are engaging with ASEOU and others to plan the day and hope to have a strong showing from EOU students, trustees, alumni, faculty and staff.

The following dates are being held on calendars for additional legislative meetings as needed.

**Feb. 18:** Open

**Feb. 25:** Open

**March 3:** President's Council (Location TBA: likely Salem)

**March 7:** Constitutional sine die for 2016 short session