



## Community College Budget Update

The Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education will hear HB 5011, the community college budget bill, on March 15-17. CCWD will present before the committee on March 15 and 16 and public testimony will be heard on March 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. OCCA will work with community colleges over the two weeks to coordinate testimony. Be prepared to come to capitol and pack committee room each day to show our support for community colleges and the great work they do!

## Legislative Update

### SB 559 – University of Oregon Governance Proposal

The Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee heard testimony on SB 559 this week, which would establish the University of Oregon as an independent public university, governed by a University of Oregon Board of Directors.

University of Oregon President Richard Lariviere was among those testifying in favor of the legislation along with many others involved with the university and members of the business community. While several students testified in favor of the legislation the President of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon, was among those testifying against the legislation. The legislation has not been scheduled for a work session.

### HB 3338 - Capital Construction Projects

HB 3338 was approved by both the House and Senate this week, clearing the way, for May community college bond sales to proceed. Last May's passage of Ballot Measure 89 included a provision requiring that the legislature affirm that all capital projects serve an educational purpose. As the projects passed during the 2009 legislative

## National Education News

President Obama signed a two-week continuing resolution (CR) on March 3 to fund the federal government until March 18. The CR reduces funding by \$4 billion from FY10 levels, though it includes funding for the Pell Grant shortfall, keeping the Pell Grant at \$5,550 instead of the previously proposed \$4,705 award level. The administration is meeting with Congressional leaders to come to consensus on funding the government until the end of the fiscal year. The House is on record supporting \$61 billion in cuts from FY10, but it is unclear at what funding level the Senate and House will come to an agreement.

On March 1, the Senate Budget Committee held a hearing on President Obama's FY 2012 proposed education budget. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan testified about the importance of continued investments in federal financial aid, especially to cover the Pell Grant shortfall and protect the maximum \$5,550 award level. He also focused on a proposal for new competitive grants to increase college completion. Video of Secretary Duncan's remarks can be found [here](#).

The U.S. Department of Education is holding four regional summits to share best practices related to student completion at community colleges. The first was held on February 28, 2011 and details of the summit can be found [here](#). The next three summits will be held on March 9 - Lone Star College System, Houston: "Successful Transfer Programs"; March 23 - Ivy Tech Community College, Indianapolis: "Partnerships Between Community Colleges and Employers"; and April 15 - San Diego Community College District: "Exemplary Programs for Veterans, Military Members, and Families."

## UCC Welcomes New President

session did not meet this new requirement, a legislative fix was necessary.

### **HB 2403 Veterans Services Officers**

HB 2403 directs state agencies to partner with the Oregon Military Department to provide reintegration services for veterans and includes an appropriation for additional Campus Veterans Service Officers. The House Veterans Affairs Committee passed the bill out with a “do pass” recommendation and referral to Ways and Means. The committee was supportive of the concept and the only issue is finding adequate funding to support the bill.

### **HJR 26 – Local Tax Reform**

The House Revenue Committee heard HRJ 26 this week, which would send a constitutional amendment proposal to Oregon voters. If voters approve, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution would be amended to allow the voters of individual cities, counties, school districts and other local taxing districts (such as community colleges) greater decision-making power about the level and duration of property tax funding they want to provide for their local services.

City, counties and public employee unions testified in favor of the bill. They pointed out that measures 5 and 50 have disempowered local districts by imposing mandatory state restriction on local property tax decision. Tax caps are increasingly causing “compression” and reducing revenue from those districts that are able to pass local option levies within Measure 50’s permanent operating property tax rate cap. This bill asks that voter-approved levies be allowed to be in force for longer periods and are weighted separately for each levy. In addition, the limitations that result in compression would not be applicable to these voter-approved levies.

Several members of the committee expressed concern about any constitutional amendment altering the will of propositions 5 and 50 is ill advised. It was noted that communities (such as Portland) are able to pass local levies and other distressed communities cannot. Some committee members noted that this bill could exaggerate the distinction between poorer communities and schools and wealthier ones. The committee adjourned at the conclusion of the public hearing. It is unlikely that there will be enough votes to advance HJR 26 out of committee.

### **SB 35 – Unemployment Insurance Benefits**

On Monday, the Senate General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection Committee heard testimony on SB 35. This bill would allow classified school and community college employees to receive unemployment benefits during

The Umpqua Community College board has chosen Dr. Joseph Olson as the ninth president following Dr. Blaine Nisson, who retired in December, and Dr. Rita Cavin, who has served as interim since then. Dr. Olson is currently vice president for military, community and economic development at Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree, California.

A native of Boston, Dr. Olson holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Suffolk University (MA). He received his Doctor of Education degree from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. Prior to going to California, Dr. Olson served as the president of Jefferson Community College (NY); has been Vice President for Student and Administrative Services at Adirondack Community College (NY); Dean of Students at Catawba Valley Community College (NC), and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean for Continuing Education at Lamar University-Orange (TX). The date he will assume the role of president has not yet been determined. OCCA welcomes to Dr. Olson to the Oregon community college system.

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### **Legislative Media Coverage**

Live and archived video and audio coverage of all legislative proceedings, including committee hearings, Senate and House floor sessions and news conferences, can be found on the Legislature’s [Audio/Video](#) website page or on OCCA’s [2011 Legislative Session](#) page.

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **State Board of Education**

March 10-11, 2011  
Oregon Department of Education, Salem

#### **Oregon Presidents Council**

March 31-April 1, 2011  
OCCA Office, Salem

#### **OCCA Board**

April 1, 2011  
Oregon State Library, Salem

#### **All Oregon Academic Team Event (Formerly "Student Scholar")**

April 21, 2011  
Oregon State Capitol and

summer break and breaks in between terms. In addition, it would remove the “reasonable assurances” provision that exists currently in statute for part-time faculty. OCCA opposes this bill and submitted a letter for the record outlining our concerns. The Employment Department provided testimony to the committee stating that the fiscal impact to school, college, and university employers would be significant due to the fact that public education employers are “direct reimbursing” employers. This means that any claim paid out results in an immediate dollar for dollar impact on the employer. The Employment Department stated that the impact would at a minimum be a \$70 million cost to employers and that Oregon would be out of compliance with the federal unemployment insurance laws.

Salem Conference Center, Salem

**Oregon President's Council**  
April 22, 2011  
Oregon State Library, Salem

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