

The first week of the 2007 Legislature got off to a bang with a nineteen gun salute to the inauguration of Governor Ted Kulongoski. Actually it was only a nine or ten gun salute since one of the big guns misfired but it still marked the culmination of a very upbeat and collegial start to the 74th Legislative session. The Governor spoke positively about the opportunity for the State to accomplish real progress due to the improved budget picture. He got a rousing round of applause for his commitment of “support for community colleges and higher education.”

Some of the warm, fuzzy feeling wore off a few hours later in the House Rules committee when an argument broke out along party lines over a proposed ban on legislative travel and gifts. Due to their majority, the Democrats prevailed and passed new rules forbidding House members to accept items of value more than \$10. Inexpensive promotional items such as t-shirts or mugs are okay but no tickets to entertainment events, rounds of golf or private restaurant meals are allowed. The Senate is also considering a gift ban.

There have been other proposed changes to the way the legislature operates including limited annual sessions with adjournment by June 30 for 2007. The House and Senate are not currently holding floor sessions everyday so that committees have more time to do their work. This may mean we have to change some of the dates penciled in for Community College Days. OCCA will keep the colleges posted as the calendar begins to shake out and we can be surer of schedules.

Andrea Henderson was scheduled to speak to the Senate Education Committee on Thursday morning to provide a community college overview but the committee ran out of time and asked her to come back on Tuesday to make her presentation. Both she and CCWD Commissioner Cam Preus-Braly will address the group at that time. Next week we will send you the link to the hearing tapes so you can listen in.

Some 756 bills have already been introduced in these first few days. Bills of note that community college advocates will be keeping their eyes on are as follows:

SB 10 (Ethics Law Reform)
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0010.intro.pdf>

HB 5012 (CC Funding)
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb5000.dir/hb5012.intro.pdf>

HB 2038 (Early Options)
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2000.dir/hb2038.intro.pdf>

HB 2206 (Skill Up)
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2206.intro.pdf>

HB 2214 (Education Enterprise)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2214.intro.pdf>

HB 2245 (Aspire)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2245.intro.pdf>

HB 2246 (Jobs Plus)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2246.intro.pdf>

HB 2262 (Degree Authorization)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2262.intro.pdf>

HB 2285 (PERS -- Double Lump Sum)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2285.intro.pdf>

HB 2372 (Employee Rest Periods to Express Breast Milk)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2300.dir/hb2372.intro.pdf>

HB 2413 (Public Contracts and Labor Unions)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2400.dir/hb2413.intro.pdf>

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Kathryn