

It seems like there was almost as much legislative action going on at the Salem Convention Center this week as there was at the Statehouse because our days were filled with community college Board members and Presidents hearing from, talking to, and sharing with legislators from all around Oregon.

The Oregon Community College Association Board met on Tuesday morning and heard session updates, legislative committee updates and briefings from the Presidents Council, State Board of Education and the Oregon Student Assistance Commission. The Board also voted to oppose the Educators Benefit Trust Plan bill (SB355) as it is currently written.

Following the Board meeting, the OCCA 2007 Legislative Summit provided Board members and administrators with the opportunity to hear from Governor Ted Kulongoski, Representative Larry Galizio (Chair of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee), Representative Vicki Berger (Co-chair of the Community College Caucus), Senator Vicki Walker (Chair of the Senate Education Committee), Representative Dave Hunt (House Majority Leader), and Representative Peter Buckley (Chair of the House Committee on Education and the Subcommittee on Higher Education.) Each of these leaders offered very encouraging words about the prospects for community colleges in this legislative session and reminded attendees how important it is for community college advocates to stick together and stay on message.

Tuesday evening the OCCA hosted a reception for community college advocates and all 90 members of the legislature. While many connections were made and conversations begun, most college representatives also had longer opportunities to have in-depth meetings with their legislators the following day.

Commissioner Cam Preus-Braly presented the Governor's recommended budget for the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development and the Community College Support Fund to the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday, January 24. OCCA Executive Director Andrea Henderson testified before the Senate Education committee on Thursday, January 25. You can listen to those hearings at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/listn/>

There have been a number of bills introduced that the OCCA Legislative committee will be considering at its meeting on Monday. Those bills with links to their full text follow.

1. SB 434 (Multi-cultural teacher loan program)
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0434.intro.pdf>
2. HB 2462 (tax deduction for college savings)
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2400.dir/hb2462.intro.pdf>
3. HB 2469 (TANF expansion)
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2400.dir/hb2469.intro.pdf>
4. HB 2476 (Proof of contractor license)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2400.dir/hb2476.intro.pdf>

5. HB 2480 (Increase corporate minimum tax)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2400.dir/hb2480.intro.pdf>

6. SB 423 (Employers and medical marijuana)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0423.intro.pdf>

7. SB 430 (Gifts to public officials)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0430.intro.pdf>

8. SB 448 (Higher education institutions viability)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0448.intro.pdf>

9. HB 2501 (MHCC early childhood education center)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2500.dir/hb2501.intro.pdf>

Next week the following hearings have been scheduled.

A. HB 2208 (Veterans Attending School Part-time Financial Aid Eligible), House Veterans Affairs, January 30, 1pm

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2208.intro.pdf>

B. SB 426 (Educators Benefit Board), Senate Education, February 1, 8:15 am

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0426.intro.pdf>

Hearings on our Capital Construction projects have been scheduled for Monday February 5th. In the coming week we will be contacting many of your for information and support in preparation for those hearings.

Prior weekly updates are posted on our web site at www.occ17.com.