

The tone of this week at the capitol sounded a lot like "hurry up and wait" as the sense of urgency contrasted with not a lot going on. In part that is because conversations about Measure 47 are occupying the minds of many legislators. It is a complex issue to start with and has been made more complex by action of the courts as well as proponents and opponents of the original initiative.

The brightest spot of the whole week was Monday's briefing on community college capitol construction before the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee. This briefing was conducted by CCWD Commissioner Cam Preus-Braly and provided an overview of the twelve projects in the Governor's recommended budget. The committee was very engaged and asked a number of questions about the plans for campus expansions and repairs. There will be further opportunity for advocates for those projects - as well as the other three supported by OCCA that were not included in the Governor's recommendation - to speak to the committee before action is taken.

Also this week, Portland Community College Cascade Campus President Algie Gatewood testified before the Senate Education Committee on Senate Bill 434 which would direct the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to establish a multicultural student-to-teacher loan program. You can listen to the audio from that hearing, including Dr. Gatewood's testimony at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/listn/>.

We were successful in getting any reference to community colleges removed from Senate Bill 384 which would have dictated what local boards may and may not include in employee contracts.

OCCA staffers have been spending a lot of time this week preparing for House Bill 2578 introduced on behalf of AFT. If passed, it would dramatically impact community colleges by creating requirements for full and part time faculty ratios. HB 2578 mandates that 75% of College courses be taught by full-time faculty by 2013. However, if a department has at least eight full-time faculty members then the 75% is required immediately. Part-time faculty will be given the pro-rata share of benefits that full-time faculty receive. If a part-time faculty member teaches the equivalent of a full-time load at more than one college, they will receive full-time health care and retirement benefits. Further, part-time faculty will be given preference in hiring for full-time faculty openings. A fund is established in the bill, but no amount is appropriated.

This bill has not yet been referred to a committee, but could conceivably be scheduled for a hearing as early as next week. In preparation for this bill, OCCA Executive Director Andrea Henderson has asked Presidents and other college administrators to provide information to her about the potential impacts of this proposal by next Wednesday.

Other Hearings coming up next week include an Informational Hearing on Community College Agriculture Workforce Programs before the House Workforce and Economic Development Committee on February 12, 8am, in Hearing Room C.

And on Wednesday, February 14 the House Workforce and Economic Development Committee will begin Hearings on House Bill 2206 (Skill Up), 8 am, in Hearing Room C.

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. HB 2578 (Part-time/Full-time Faculty Ratios)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2500.dir/hb2578.intro.pdf>

2. HB 2571 (Smoking - public places)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2500.dir/hb2571.intro.pdf>

3. HB 2618 (Public contracts and apprenticeship training agents)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2600.dir/hb2618.intro.pdf>

4. HB 2620 (1% of public contract value to solar energy design/technology)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2600.dir/hb2620.intro.pdf>

5. HB 2623 (Eliminate PERS break in service)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2600.dir/hb2623.intro.pdf>

6. SB 488 (Smoking - public building entrances)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0488.intro.pdf>

7. HB 2588 (High school graduation task force)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2500.dir/hb2588.intro.pdf>

8. HB 2606 (High school graduation in less than 4 years)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/hb2600.dir/hb2606.intro.pdf>

9. SB 489 (First responder building mapping info system)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0489.intro.pdf>

10. SJR 16 (Public education funding bill deadline)

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sjr1.dir/sjr0016.intro.pdf>

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