

Happy Mother's Day!

If this were a baby we were developing instead of a series of laws and appropriations, the 18<sup>th</sup> week is when we could begin to notice the first kicks and barrel rolls that reassure us that the bundle we are awaiting is moving toward delivery. But like many expectant moms who find themselves at this milestone, those of us watching this legislative session know there is something going on in there but the movement isn't strong enough yet to distinguish it from gas bubbles. We're betting that when the revenue estimates are released this coming Tuesday, real movement will begin.

Budget hearings for community colleges have been scheduled for June 4-8. Ours will be the last budget in the K-20 education continuum to be considered. We've tried to analyze if being last is an advantage or disadvantage and we've decided to be hopeful that this position will allow legislators to take advantage of any revenue developments that are still being worked out.

As the Associated Press reported on Wednesday, "Oregon House Democrats are quietly floating a draft proposal to raise up to \$210 million in corporate taxes over the next two years, to provide more money for higher education, community colleges and workforce development." The proposal, called the Oregon Investment Plan, is being shopped around before business advocates and postsecondary education lobbyists but has not yet gotten any real discussion across the aisle. With any new revenue plan, Democrats will have to secure a number of Republican votes to move their idea forward.

This coming Wednesday, the day after the revenue estimates are revealed, postsecondary education supporters and student advocates have planned a joint lobbying day to drive home their message of "Fix Postsecondary Education Funding First." Meetings have been set up to allow mixed groups of community college and OUS board members, administrators, faculty and students to stand together and speak with one voice. We need operating funds, capital bonding and financial aid for colleges and universities. Attempts to play us off against each other or to rob from one account to prop up another is not a satisfactory answer. We must be adequately funded in all areas.

By the time I send you the weekly update on the Friday before Father's Day, we will be only a couple of weeks away from the promised sine die. Between now and then, things are going to get very, very hectic.

Hearings coming up in the next week include:

A. May Revenue Forecast, House and Senate Revenue Committees, Tuesday, May 15, 8:45 am, HR A

B. SB 879A (Pain Management Curriculum Review), House Health Care Committee, Tuesday, May 15, 3 pm, HR E

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0800.dir/sb0879.a.pdf>

C. SB 23 (Expanded Options), House Education Committee, Wednesday, May 16, 1 pm,  
HR D

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/07reg/measpdf/sb0001.dir/sb0023.a.pdf>