



NEWS DIGEST - February 13, 2016

CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

2016 Legislative Session: Week 2 Overview

Separate Ways and Means sub committees heard testimony related to the funding request by Umpqua Community College (UCC) and the statewide ask by colleges to fund projects related to campus safety and security.

The Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education heard testimony on UCC's request to repurpose Snyder Hall, the site of the October 1 event, and for other funding needs related to that incident.

UCC Interim President Walt Nolte and Associated Students of UCC Vice President Joshua Friedlein lead off the presentation describing the current atmosphere on campus and the overall effect the events of October 1.

March 10, 2016

OCCA Board Meeting
Portland Community College - Sylvania Campus, Portland

March 11, 2016

OPC Meeting
Portland Community College - Sylvania Campus, Portland

April 9-12, 2016

AACC Annual Convention
Chicago, IL

April 20, 2016

AOAT Student Scholar Event
Salem Convention

The Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education also heard testimony from representatives from several community colleges, along with OCCA, to advocate for \$19.3 million in capital construction bonds for safety and security upgrades.

Revenue Forecast

The legislature also received a revenue update from the state economist showing that revenue for the current biennium was up \$61 million resulting from current strength in the state's economy. However, state economists also pointed to longer term trends that could result in a \$166 million drop in revenue for the upcoming biennium.

Minimum Wage

After a 6-hour floor debate in the State Senate, legislators passed a minimum wage increase that would gradually raise the state's wage with three geographically based tiers. After a 6-hour floor debate the State Senate, legislators passed a minimum wage increase that would gradually raise the state's wage with three geographically based tiers. The proposal would begin raising the current \$9.25 an hour minimum in July. \$14.75 inside Portland's Urban Growth Boundary, \$13.50 in a middle tier that includes Eugene and Bend, and \$12.50 in sparsely populated "frontier" areas.

Hearings scheduled for next week:

Monday, February 15

Senate Committee on Business and Labor

8:30 a.m.; Hearing Room E

Public hearing and possible work session: [SB 1532 A](#) – Establishes tiered system for determination of minimum wage based on geographical location of employer.

Senate Floor

10:30 a.m.: [SB 1540 A](#) – Directs Higher Education Coordinating

Center

April 20-21, 2016

OPC Meeting

OCCA Office, Salem

OCCA STAFF

Andrea
Henderson
Executive
Director

andrea@occa17.com

John Wykoff
Legislative
Director

jwykoff@occa17.com

Karen Smith
General Counsel
ksmith@occa17.com

Megan Jensen
Deputy
Director of
Operations
mjensen@occa17.com

Elizabeth Cox-
Brand
Student Success
and Assessment
Director
elizabeth@occa17.com

Commission, in consultation with Oregon post-secondary institutions of education, to conduct study to determine best method of increasing number of mathematics majors at Oregon universities.

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Katie
Archambault
Research and
Communications
Specialist
katie@occa17.com

Senate Committee on Business and Labor

5:30 p.m.; Hearing Room C

Public hearing and possible work session: [SB 1532 A](#) – Establishes tiered system for determination of minimum wage based on geographical location of employer.

Tuesday, February 16

Senate Committee on Transportation and Economic Development

3:00 p.m.; H-174

Work session: [SB 1512](#) – Specifies that proceeds from bonds issued under Articles XI-M and XI-N of Oregon Constitution may be used for surveying and conducting engineering evaluations and for paying costs of personnel, advisors, equipment, supplies and services that are reasonably necessary to carry out seismic rehabilitation grant program.

Senate Committee on Rules

3:00 p.m.; Hearing Room B

Work session: [SB 1586](#) – Directs public universities and community colleges to increase voter registration access and information.

Wednesday, February 17

Senate Committee on Business and Labor

8:30 a.m.; Hearing Room E

Public hearing and possible work session: [SB 1534](#) – Provides that certain statutory provisions relating to eligibility of individuals who perform certain services for educational institutions for unemployment insurance benefits during period between two successive academic years or terms or established and customary vacation period or holiday recess do not apply to claim filed by individual who voluntarily left work

with good cause.

ACCT Leadership Congress 2016

This week, community college trustees and leaders from all over the country converged on Washington, D.C. to advocate for community colleges on issues of national and local importance, such as extending Pell grant to year-round funding; the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act; opposition of risk sharing; America's College Promise; reauthorization of the Perkins Act; and support and expansion of American Opportunity Tax Credit.

Representatives from Oregon included over 30 community college trustees, presidents, students, and staff. School representation included: Clatsop Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, Portland Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Rogue Community College, Columbia Gorge Community College, and Lane Community College.

At the Legislative Summit, there was a special session that focused on lessons learned from the October 1 event at Umpqua Community College (UCC). The panel included Andrea Henderson, Executive Director at Oregon Community College Association, Vanessa Becker, Chair of Board of Trustees at UCC, Mark Spilde, President at Lane Community College, Andre Le Duc, Chief Resilience Office – Associate Vice President at University of Oregon, and Ashley Higgins, Management and Program Analyst with the U.S. Department of Education. Topics covered included: preparing before tragedy strikes, confronting and managing

once an event occurs, the process of recovery, and lessons learned.



Photo Credit: Keith Weller

Andrea Henderson also moderated a panel on Americas College Promise and talked about the Oregon Promise and shared some things to think about when developing these types of programs.

On Wednesday, the Oregon assembly took to Capitol Hill and lobbied national issues with Oregon's federal delegation and/or members of their staff. Colleges met with Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Congressman Peter DeFazio, Congressman Greg Walden, Congressman Kurt Schrader, Senator Ron Wyden, and Senator Jeff Merkley.



Strategic Plan Presented at Student Success and Retention Conference

The annual Student Success and Retention conference was held in Portland February 4-5th. Dr. Terry O'Banion, former president of the League for Innovation in Community Colleges and longtime community college champion, gave the keynote and later spent time discussing educational reform with CIA and CSSA. Elizabeth Cox Brand, Connie Green, and Christie Plinski, members of the Student Success Oversight Committee (SSOC), gave a presentation at the conference regarding the updated draft of the Student Success Strategic Plan, receiving great feedback from audience members. Input on the report is also being sought from community college affinity groups (eg. OPC, CIA) with a deadline of mid-March so an updated plan will be ready for the April SSOC meeting.

Developmental Education Redesign Update – Placement Meeting

The next meeting for statewide placement teams is scheduled for Friday, March 4th at the Chemeketa Eola Center. During this meeting teams will discuss a menu of multiple measures, use of writing samples from K12, mathematics software to assist in placement test preparation, and more. A report highlighting agreements reached at this meeting will be developed and distributed to affinity groups as well as being posted on the OCCA website. Questions? Contact: Elizabeth Cox Brand, elizabeth@occa17.com, or call 503.399.9912

Oregon Coast Community College is One

Step Closer to Accreditation

[Oregon Coast Community College \(OCCC\) has been recognized by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities \(NWCCU\) as an Applicant for Candidacy.](#) This is the critical first step of three in gaining independence (Applicant, Candidate, and Independently Accredited).

Since the college's founding in 1987, independence has been the ultimate goal. OCCC submitted its "Application for Consideration for Candidacy" for independent accreditation to NWCCU in October 2015. On January 8, President Birgitte Ryslinge and Cindy Carlson, OCCC's Dean of Students and Instruction, traveled to Seattle to testify before the Board of Commissioners and to formally submit the application. On Monday, February 1, OCCC received the good news that the Commission had accepted their application.

Currently, the programs and services offered at OCCC are accredited through an oversight agreement with Portland Community College (PCC). While this arrangement benefits OCCC students through access to federal financial aid and courses transferability, all degrees and certificates are granted in the name of PCC – that is until OCCC can become independently accredited.

Oregon's 17 community colleges are a vital part of the state's education system and serve roughly 350,000 students a year, or about 1 in 11 Oregonians.

The OCCA Digest updates members and the public about recent news affecting community colleges and efforts by the association to enhance student success and workforce development.

Do you have links to local stories or other items of interest? Please forward them to mjensen@occa17.com.

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