

SOU in Salem: Notes from the Capitol, Week 17

The Big News:

- The Revenue Forecast presented on May 14 offered a mixed but sobering picture of state finances, and the prospects of additional funding for public universities. Some highlights:
 - o Overall revenue for 2025-27 anticipated to be \$2.1 Billion increased from what is expected to be collected within the 2023-25 biennium
 - o Overall revenue available is projected to be slightly more than \$750 million lower than what was projected in February.

Conversations in the Capitol lead to the conclusion that there is not a lot of support to increase investment for the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) beyond the Co-Chair budget framework, which seeks to keep “core services” funded. Nonetheless the OCOP Legislative Advisory Council (LAC) are requesting \$1.14 billion for the PUSF—which would represent an increase of around 43 million more than the Co-Chair framework.

The Little Things:

- The House Higher Education and Workforce Committee has completed its business and will only meet as required when Senate bills are assigned to the committee.
- Floor sessions in the House are taking longer because Republicans are no longer agreeing to waive the requirement that bills be read “in their entirety”. When there is agreement for waiver, the Reading Clerk can simply read the “relating clause” of the bill, without reading the full bill verbatim.

What's Ahead

- HB 3026, which includes the SOU request that HECC study reporting requirements on public universities, is scheduled for a work session on Monday, May 19
- HB 2649, which operationalizes the Taiwan student Memorandum of Understanding, is expected to be passed by the Senate next week; from there it will move to the Governor's desk for signature
- HB 3731, which makes changes to Title IX reporting, is scheduled for a work session on Monday and is expected to be approved.

What we are especially focused on:

- SOU's Creative Industries Project getting funded this session

- Following up on all the parts of our agenda to bring the session home.