

SOU in Salem: Notes from the Capitol, Week 13

Big News:

- The Ways and Means Roadshow wound its way to Salem and the online sphere today this week. More than 500 people signed in online and three hearing rooms in Salem were full for this hearing. There was not much testimony on higher education, unfortunately. However, the last comment of the hearing was all about the need to support higher education with more funding. This is why it's important to have students, staff, faculty and others speaking up where they can for higher education.
- TRU Lobby Day is Monday, April 21! There is STILL time to sign up to attend this all-day event (using the form here), leaving early in the morning from SOU and arriving back around 8:30 pm. The four regional institutions have done a great deal to organize meetings so that students and others' voices get heard! The four TRU presidents will be meeting together with key legislators, and our mascots will be strolling the halls together, showing solidarity among the TRUs.
- Michelle Fuentes was approved this week to become a non-voting Trustee by the Oregon Senate, after having attended a hearing on her appointment on Monday in Salem. Michelle was joined in support by Trustees Iris Maria Chavez and Danny Santos.

The Little Things:

- Most days are an opportunity to demonstrate our ability to be nimble and flexible while remaining effective. This week, the dates for the public university budget presentations changed not once but twice within a 20-hour period. Thanks to SOU Alum Dylan Bloom, and students Chloe Fiveash and Garima Sharma for being flexible with the date of their testimonies.

Things to consider:

- Can you make time to send and solicit letters of support for the final days of the session, when advocacy around our legislative priorities will be key?

What we are especially focused on:

- April 21 TRU Lobby Day
- April 25 stop on the Ways and Means Road Show at Klamath CC. (Sign up here.)
- Planning for the May 14 Revenue Forecast and how to approach any number of scenarios that may take place (revenue up, revenue down, etc.)