

SOU in Salem

Big News:

- The Ways and Means Roadshow is underway! The series of public conversations in “town hall” style began late last week in Gresham, continues in Warm Springs today, travels to LaGrande and EOU next week, and will complete in Klamath Falls on April 25. SOU will have a relatively modest (around 10) but mighty contingent to urge the funders to provide needed support for SOU and public universities.
- The Governor’s behavioral health workforce package moved out of committee this week, and joined HB 3129, higher education’s behavioral health workforce package for consideration. We are planning a group of conversations with Ways and Means members to help support as much money as possible finding its way to public universities to do this work.
- The Oregon Council of Presidents announced that we have hired Mary Rae Moller to be its Executive Director. Mary comes highly recommended and with decades of state government experience. Mary will begin officially in July, but start to engage with OCOP in the next month as she transitions into the role.
- Technical and Regional Universities are gearing up for a “TRU Lobby Day” to showcase the value and distinctiveness of Oregon’s regional universities—folks can sign up here:

The Little Things:

- More testimony from SOU continues to take place. Even when bills are not among our priorities, we want to support that which will make a difference for SOU. Marc testified Thursday on a bill that will implement the Taiwan student Memorandum of Understanding developed by the four TRU presidents last summer. Testimony begins around 1:10:10.
- Trustee-designate Michelle Fuentes will have a hearing on her appointment in Senate Rules Committee on April 14. Trustees Danny Santos and Irene Chavez will support Michelle at the Capitol, along with Marc.
- Next Saturday will mark the halfway point in the 2025 Session.

Other Bills of Interest:

- HB 3213 (university foundations and public records) is not moving forward.
- SB 5 (requiring university faculty to have a master degree or higher) is not moving forward.

Things to consider:

- Who do you know who could make the trip to Klamath Community College on April 25 for the “Ways and Means Road Show” hearing? We are gathering students (faculty and staff welcome as available) and coordinating our effort with OIT.
- How are the TRUs distinct institutions? Please send your thoughts to Marc, and come prepared to have a little discussion at the next LAT meeting.

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](#).)
- Budget Hearings in Ways and Means that will feature SOU current and former students April 17, 21 and 22.