

SOU in Salem: Notes from the Capitol, Week 15

The Big News:

- SOU has been EVERYWHERE in the past 7 days when it comes to advocating for funding for higher education! Consider:

- o April 25 - Klamath Community College Final Stop on the Roadshow, with our own SEIU Local president Sage TeBeest testifying

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2025041003> (beginning at 45:45); and a 3-student panel of Chloe Fiveash, Simon Griggs and Maisie Bandel-Ramirez (and Branko Yan as Rocky) getting to testify as well

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2025041003>. (beginning at 2:03:15) (SOU had more people presenting than any educational institution!!!)

- o April 29 - SOU alum Dylan Bloom testified on the power of the value of public universities on Day 1 of the public university presentation in Ways and Means

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2025041254> (beginning at 51:25); Jackson County MH Director Jenn Inman noted SOU's work in behavioral health with BHEACON as a testament to the importance of public universities as workforce developers.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2025041254> (beginning at 40:15).

- o April 30 - SOU students Garima Sharma

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2025041255> (beginning at 15:00) and Chloe Bloom

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2025041255> (beginning at 32:15) testified on Strong Start and Oregon Opportunity Grant on Day 2 of the Ways and Means presentation

- o May 1 - SOU President Rick Bailey and Board Chair Sheila Clough presented via video, along with the presidents of EOU and WOU in an informational session on the Regional Universities in the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2025051017>; Local SEIU President Sage TeBeest also signed up to testify in support of public university funding on Day 3 of the budget presentations and submitted her testimony online.

- o May 2 - DMC Director Brandon Givens testified in support of SOU's Creative Industries capital project.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/mediaplayer/?clientID=4879615486&eventID=2025051038> (beginning at 1:19:40) And, 6 letters secured by Brandon and Dean Andrew Gay have been submitted so far in support! More

are on their way.

The Little Things:

- Other than an informational session on community colleges next week, the House HHEWD committee has only two bills and likely will stop meeting soon.
- HB 2551, Representative Hudson's Campus Public Safety Bill, introduced after an article mentioning SOU, OSU, and PCC, passed the Senate unanimously, and is headed to the Governor's desk and awaits her signature.
- Day 1 of the public university budget presentation in the Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee began with a "frosty" reception for the public universities; legislators began asking questions minutes into the start of the presentation around the assertions and data related to slides showing the amount of money provided by the legislature over time, and asking why universities need more money if the number of students participating is declining. Candidly, many people noted this does not bode well for the overall ask of \$1.275 Billion. (The co-chair starting framework is \$1.08 Billion.)

What's Ahead

- In addition to President Bailey's visit to the Capitol on May 8,
 - o May 7 lobby day with students from Oregon's 7 public universities, organized by student leaders at OSU and UO
 - o May 8 lobby day with students to advocate for the Student Basic Needs bills.

What we are especially focused on:

- May 7 Regional Universities Informational Session in Senate Education
- Preparing for President Bailey's next visit to the Capitol next week, and we are lining up key meetings for the morning and early afternoon of May 8 to speak about funding, capital projects, and behavioral health
- Planning for the May 14 Revenue Forecast and how to approach any number of scenarios that may take place (revenue up, revenue down, etc.)
- Considering the end of session in 7 weeks and what is left in our agenda to make sure gets through!