

Notes from the Capitol

Are we there yet? (No—we still have nearly 2/3 of the session to go!)

Big News:

□ The Co-Chairs' Budget Framework was published this week; the budget is a "fund core services" budget, which funded public universities at "CSL Level", which is roughly a 7% increase in the PUSF—but due to the intricacies of the funding formula leaves SOU far short of what we would want to avoid cuts or tuition increases over 5%. (The level is what was presented by President Bailey in the recent Campus Conversation, so we've planned for this, but we must take additional strategic actions to avoid further reductions and tuition increases.)

□ Today (Friday) was the deadline for all bills to have a work session scheduled, or else the bill dies. All of the bills

SOU is pursuing made it through this hurdle successfully.

The Little Things:

□ SOU provided oral testimony four out of the four days the legislators were in the Capitol building this week:

- o Trustee Danny Santos, on SCR 10 (about 52:50), honoring former Senate President Peter Courtney (Monday)

- o Marc Overbeck on HB 3129 (7:15), higher ed's BH workforce package (Tuesday)

- o Marc Overbeck on SB 142 (1:07), Gov. Kotek's BH workforce package (Tuesday, on behalf of OCOP)

- o Marc Overbeck, on SB 396 (about 9:45), to require public universities to create a common application (Wednesday); Provost Casey Shillam also provided written testimony on the bill on behalf of the Statewide Provost Council

- o Marc Overbeck, on HB 3029 (about 1:04:40), modifying statutes related to workforce development and

local workforce boards; (Thursday)

Other Bills of Interest:

o We spoke about the first two of these bills during the LAT meeting, but:

□ HB 3213 (university foundations and public records may see a compromise and move)

□ HB 2649 (implement the Taiwan student program at TRUs—being amended and may move)

□ SB 916 (providing unemployment insurance after two weeks on strike at a public employer—passed Senate 16-14 Thursday)

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. A google form will be sent next week for our own internal tracking.

What we are especially focused on:

□ Continuing to push SOU’s policy bills through the HHEWD Committee

□ Preparing for the Ways and Means Road Show; the next round of Creative Industries conversations; and developing our strategy for a sufficient level of funding for SOU this session.