



Capitol Update

APRIL 2006

Published by the UW Office of State Relations

News

Governor Gregoire Signs Budget Bills

Governor Gregoire Signs Budget Bills

The 2006 supplemental operating, capital and transportation budgets were enacted into law on March 31 with Governor Gregoire's signature in a ceremony in the state capitol in Olympia. Regarding appropriations for the University, there were only minor changes that impacted the funding received from the state legislature this past session.

Superior Court Decision Invalidates Some 2005 Tax Increases

In the operating budget, the Governor vetoed a \$125,000 legislative earmark for the College of Education to conduct a review of public school curriculums to determine the extent to which the curriculums accurately reflect the history and experience of people of color. The remaining \$9.456 million in operating budget funding for the UW remains intact. There were no vetoes affecting UW supplemental capital appropriations, so the total amount of funding for the University is still approximately \$18 million.

Washington Learns to Visit UW Campus April 10

In the supplemental transportation budget, the Governor vetoed a \$250,000 appropriation for the city of Seattle to prepare a plan for addressing the impacts of the state route 520 bridge replacement project on Seattle neighborhoods, the University and the Arboretum. An advisory committee (which would have included UW representatives) was to be formed to study and evaluate alternative design proposals and mitigation plans.

Prosperity Partnership Launches Higher Education Effort

Superior Court Decision Invalidates Some 2005 Tax Increases

In constructing the 2005-07 biennial budget, the legislature passed a measure which increased general fund revenues by \$263 million through increased taxes on cigarettes, hard liquor and by applying the sales tax to extended consumer warranties. That same measure also included some tax breaks, reducing the "net" revenue increase to \$250 million.

Olympia News and Notes

On March 17, Snohomish County Superior Court Judge James Allendoerfer ruled that the state legislature violated Initiative 601 (the voter-approved spending limit enacted in 1993) by exploiting a "loophole" in the initiative allowing the tax increases to be enacted without a vote of the people and to artificially increase the general fund spending limit.

Washington Learns Meeting Agenda

The judge's ruling was prompted by a lawsuit filed last year by the Evergreen Freedom Foundation, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Building Industry Association, the Washington Farm Bureau and the Washington State Grange. The immediate effect on the increased

revenues is unclear, although it is certain that state officials will appeal the ruling.

Washington Learns to Visit UW Campus April 10

Governor Gregoire convened the monthly meeting of her Washington Learns Steering Committee on the campus of the University of Washington on Monday April 10 in room 200 (ABC) of the Husky Union Building. The Committee's visit was intended to provide committee members with a better understanding of the research mission of the University and how it benefits the state and regional economy.

Washington Learns is an 18-month comprehensive education study that is examining the state's existing education system—from early learning through K-12 to higher education and recommending ways to improve it now and in the future. The effort is led by a 13-member steering committee chaired by the Governor. The Steering Committee works closely with three Advisory Committees focused on early learning, K-12 education and higher education

An agenda for the meeting is attached.

Prosperity Partnership Launches Higher Education Effort

The Prosperity Partnership is a coalition of over 150 government, business, labor and community organizations from King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties dedicated to developing and implementing a common economic strategy. The shared goal is long-term economic prosperity and the creation of 100,000 new jobs in the central Puget Sound region.

Launched in July 2004, the Prosperity Partnership is coordinated and staffed by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). UW President Mark Emmert is one of eight co-chairs of the Prosperity Partnership which includes Brad Smith, Senior Vice President at Microsoft, Alan Mullaly, President of Boeing Commercial Airplane Company, John Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive, Rick Bender, President of the Washington State Labor Council AFL-CIO, Rita Ryder, President of the YWCA, Strategic Initiatives, Charles Mitchell, Chancellor of Seattle Community Colleges, and Tomio Moriguchi, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Uwajimaya.

Recently, the Partnership formed a Higher Education Working Group, charged with developing a consensus proposal for the 2007 legislative session. The group is concerned about the following issues:

- A shortage of workers with bachelors' degrees, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.
- The number of slots for admissions to bachelors programs has remained largely stagnant in Washington State.

UW representatives on the working group include President Mark Emmert and Dr. Ed Lazowska, the Bill and Melinda Gates Chair in Computer Science Engineering and Dr. David Lovell, Research Associate Professor in Psychosocial & Community Health and the University's Faculty Senate

Legislative Representative. The group is meeting monthly and planning to have preliminary recommendations by this summer.

Olympia News and Notes

Representative Rodney Tom, a two-term Republican state representative from the 48th legislative district (Bellevue and Redmond) announced on March 14 that he is switching to the Democratic party and will run against incumbent **Luke Esser** (R-Bellevue) for the 48th district Senate seat this fall.

Representative Ed Murray (D-Seattle) announced on Friday, March 31 that he will challenge incumbent **Pat Thibaudeau** in the Democratic primary for the 43rd District state senate seat this fall. The 43rd District includes Capitol Hill, the University, Wallingford and parts of Fremont.

Representative Derek Kilmer (D-Gig Harbor) recently announced that he will run for the 26th District state senate seat being vacated by the retiring **Bob Oke** (R-Port Orchard). The district comprises Gig Harbor, Fox Island and parts of Port Orchard and Bremerton. He is expected to face off against **Lois McMahan**, a former Republican state representative whom Kilmer defeated in 2004.

Senator Steve Johnson (R-Kent) who announced his retirement from the state Senate prior to the 2006 legislative session has indicated he will run for a seat on the state Supreme Court this fall.

House Republican state representatives **Don Cox** (R-Colfax) and **Gigi Talcott** (R-Lakewood) announced during the 2006 legislative session that they would not run for re-election in 2006. Representative Cox is currently the ranking minority leader for the House Higher Education and Workforce Education committee and serves on the Washington Learns Higher Education Advisory committee. Representative Talcott served as ranking minority leader for the House Education committee.

Nina Oman, lead staff person for the House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee left the Office of Program Research in February for a position with the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC). She was replaced by **Jennifer Thornton**.

WASHINGTON LEARNS - Meeting Agenda

Call to Order and Introductions..... 9:00 - 9:10

Governor Gregoire

Welcome to UW and Overview..... 9:10 - 9:20

Phyllis Wise, Provost

Research at the UW..... 9:20 - 9:30

Mary Lidstrom, Vice Provost for Research

Faculty Research..... 9:30 - 10:10

Andy Meltzoff and Pat Kuhl, Co-Directors of the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences

- *" The New Science of Learning: From Synapse to School"*

John Delaney, Professor of Oceanography

- *" Beyond Ships and Satellites: How Will We Study the Oceans in the Future?"*

Ed Lazowska, Bill and Melinda Gates Chair in Computer Science and Engineering

- *" Research, Education, Entrepreneurship, and Opportunity in Computer Science & Engineering"*

A Student Perspective 10:10 - 10:30

Sariah Khormae, UW Senior with College Honors in Neurobiology and Biochemistry

Break (to view CFR research project displays)..... 10:30 - 11:00

Research at Washington State University..... 11:00 - 11:45

Jane Sherman, Associate Vice Provost, Washington State University, Pullman

Advisory Committee Reports..... 11:45 - 12:00

Public Comment..... 12:00 - 12:15

Adjourn

Note: Steering Committee members and staff will have lunch in Room 106B in the Student Union Building. No official business will be conducted. 12:15 - 1:30