



Weekly Legislative Update

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NEWS

Week Five Highlights

On Wednesday, the 2006 session reached the halfway point as both chambers began all day floor sessions to consider and pass legislation from their respective chambers. Many bills of interest to the University died in committee and only a handful of bills are still being actively tracked (see below). The Senate and House of Representatives have until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 14 to act on bills originating in their chambers.

Preview of Week Six Activities

This week, legislative fiscal committee chairs and staff continued working behind closed doors on their respective supplemental operating, capital and transportation budget proposals. The Senate is scheduled to release their budget proposals on Wednesday, February 15. House of Representative budget proposals could be released the following week.

Governor Gregoire Appoints Wine Industry Leader to WSH Board of Regents

Preview of Week Six Activities

Senate and House committees will resume hearings on Wednesday, February 15.

Bills of Interest to the University

On Thursday February 16, the House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee will hold a work session on technology transfer. Lee Huntsman, Executive Director of the Life Sciences Discovery Fund Authority and President Emeritus, will provide an update on the Fund's activities. Malcolm Parks, Associate Vice Provost for Research will provide an update on the implementation of SHB 1806 from the 2005 session which modified provisions of the state ethics act to facilitate an increase in the commercialization of university technology.

Governor Gregoire Appoints Wine Industry Leader to WSU Board of Regents

Governor Christine Gregoire announced the appointment of Chateau Ste. Michelle Wine Estates President and CEO, Ted Baseler of Bellevue, to the Board of Regents at Washington State University.

Mr. Baseler joined Chateau Ste. Michelle Wine Estates in 1984 as the Director of Marketing and was named President and CEO in January of 2001. In his 22 years with the company, the industry has grown from fewer than 20 Washington wineries to over 400 today. The company is the oldest wine company in Washington State and owns Chateau Ste. Michelle, Columbia Crest, Northstar, Snoqualmie and Col Solare wineries.

He founded the Chateau Ste. Michelle Diversity Scholarship program, which has raised over \$800,000 to support college-bound minority students, and received the WSU Distinguished Service Award in 2002. Mr. Baseler serves on the WSU Foundation Board of Trustees and the PONCHO Board.

Mr. Baseler received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Washington State University in 1976, and his Master of Science with a major in Advertising from Northwestern University in 1977. He resides in Bellevue with his wife JoAnne, also a WSU graduate.

Bills of Interest to the University

Health Technology Assessment -- HB 2575 (Cody)

Establishes an evidence-based health technology assessment program.

University Position: Support

Status: Passed the House of Representatives 72-26. Referred to Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee.

Increasing Tuition Waivers for Veterans -- SHB 2233 (Kristiansen)

Requires the University to provide waivers to eligible veterans.

University Position: Support

Status: Passed the House of Representatives 98-0. Referred to Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee.

Requiring Disclosure of Outsourcing -- HB 3160 (Hudgins)

Requires new reporting requirements for state agencies which contract with overseas firms or entities.

University Position: Neutral

Status: House Appropriations Committee

Establishing Technology Priorities for Institutions of Higher Education -- SHB 2817 (Sells) and SSB 6697 (Berkey).

Establishes state objectives for access, enrollment, delivery and degree achievements in fields of engineering, technology, biotechnology and other science fields.

University Position: Support but prefer Senate version.

Status: SHB 2817 passed House of Representatives 98-0 and referred to Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee. SSB 6697 on Senate 2nd Reading Calendar.

Revising Terms of Appointment of Student Regents and Trustees -- HB 2857 (Kenney) and SB 6567 (McAuliffe)

Modifies the one year term of office for student regents and trustees so that the term begins on July 1 instead of June 1.

University Position: Support

Status: SB 6567 on Senate 2nd Reading Calendar. HB 2857 passed House of Representatives 98-0.

Expanding Access to Higher Education in Everett/Snohomish County Using the University Center Model – HB 3113 (Sells)

Establishes a university center at Everett Community College and expresses legislative intent to provide 250 student FTE to provide baccalaureate education on the campus.

University Position: Neutral

Status: Passed House of Representatives 90-8.

Concerning Cost Savings on Course Materials – SSB 6699 (Pridemore) and SHB 3087 (Ormsby)

Requires universities in collaboration with affiliated bookstores and students and faculty to adopt rules requiring bookstores to permit students to purchase unbundled course materials where possible.

University Position: Support if requirement

Status: SSB 6699 on Senate 2nd Reading Calendar. SHB 3087 passed House of Representatives 98-0.