



# Weekly Legislative Update

January 16, 2006

Published by the UW Office of State Relations

## News

[Week One Highlights](#)

[Preview of Week Two Activities](#)

[Bills of Interest of the University](#)

## Week One Highlights

On Monday January 9, the House Appropriations Committee took public testimony on the Governor's 2006 supplemental budget proposal from both Higher Education and K-12 representatives. Director of State Relations Randy Hodgins spoke on behalf on the University, specifically asking the committee to support additional investments in undergraduate education and basic research. Washington Roundtable Executive Director Steve Mullin and Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Director Bob Drewel testified on the importance of higher education investment to the state economy.

On Tuesday January 10, Provost Phyllis Wise spoke before a meeting of the House Higher Education and Workforce Education on undergraduate initiatives at the University. The Provost's presentation was well received by committee members and a number of questions focused on the University's recent decision to implement a holistic admissions review process for incoming applicants. At the same hearing, the HECB presented the findings from their most recent Diversity Assessment. UW Faculty Legislative Representative David Lovell and ASUW Legislative Representative Ben Golden both spoke in the assessment and the importance of strengthening diversity at the University.

On Thursday January 12, the Senate Water, Energy and Environment Committee heard a presentation on the University's Earth Initiative. Provost Wise, Dean Arthur Nowell, Professor of Carolyn Friedman and Sea Grant Program Director Penelope Dalton appeared before the committee for a full hour to provide an overview of University research efforts on environmental issues, particularly in the Puget Sound. Committee members were extremely complimentary and engaged in the presentation and several commented afterwards that they would like to see similar presentations from the University about research in other policy fields.

That afternoon, the Senate Ways and Means committee took public testimony on the Governor's 2006 supplemental budget proposal. Director of State Relations Randy Hodgins once again spoke on behalf on the University, specifically asking the committee to support additional investments in undergraduate education, basic research, and a variety of capital budget investments.

## **Preview of Week Two Activities**

On Tuesday January 17, the House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee will hold a work session at 1:30 p.m. on current initiatives to improve student preparation in math and science for college and the state workforce.

That afternoon at 3:30 p.m., the House Appropriations Committee will hear an update on the Governor's Washington Learns initiative as well as presentation on evidence-based medicine in the state's Medicaid program.

The Governor's supplemental budget proposes the creation of a state health technology assessment program that would include establishment of an evidence-based medicine institute at the University. House Bill 2575 has been introduced at the request of the Governor to accomplish this objective and will be heard in the House Health Care Committee at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday January 19. That afternoon at 3:30 p.m., the House Appropriations Committee will hold a work session on evidence-based medicine in state health initiatives.

At 1:30 p.m., the Senate Ways and Means Committee will hold a work session on capital budget issues, with particular focus on building needs for higher education institutions. The University has recently completed a study of its recent capital funding history and future requirements as called for in Section 933 of the 2005-07 biennial capital appropriations bill. Vice Provost for Planning and Budgeting Harlan Patterson and Assistant Vice Provost for Capital Budget and Planning Marilyn Cox will present the study findings to committee members.

Dean Sandra Archibald and others from the Evans School of Public Affairs will bring about 15 students to Olympia on Thursday January 19 for an Olympia orientation. Students will receive presentations from Olympia insiders as well as attend hearings, strategy sessions and taping of popular TVW programs. An informal open house will also be held with Evans School alumni working on the state capitol campus.

On Friday January 20, the House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee will hold a work session on admissions policies and processes at public institutions of higher education. Admissions officers from all six public baccalaureate institutions are scheduled to present including Philip Ballinger, UW Director of Admissions.

## **Bills of Interest to the University**

### **Regulating Off Campus Student Housing – SB 6135 (Jacobsen)**

Requires all four year higher education institution to develop and implement an off-campus housing quality assessment program.

- Referred to the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee

### **Health Technology Assessment -- HB 2575 (Cody)**

Establishes an evidence-based health technology assessment program.

- Public hearing in House Health Care Committee on January 19 at 8:00 a.m.

### **Graduate Fellowships in Math and Science -- HB 2347 (Morris)**

Establishes a new graduate fellowship trust fund program for the sciences to attract and retain top quality graduate students in the science fields.

- Public hearing in House Higher Education and Workforce Education on January 20 at 1:30 p.m.

### **Increasing Tuition Waivers for Veterans -- HB 2233 (Kristiansen)**

Mandates that 10% of all tuition waivers granted by four year and two year higher education institutions be granted to veterans.

- Public hearing in House Higher Education and Workforce Education on January 20 at 1:30 p.m.

### **Requiring Disclosure of Outsourcing -- HB 1724 (Conway)**

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

- Referred to House Commerce and Labor Committee