



Weekly Legislative Update

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News

Week Three Highlights

Dean Somerman, Dental Students Join WSDA For Dental Lobby Day

Preview of Week Four Activities

Bills of Interest to the University

Week Three Highlights

The major higher education event of week three occurred on Monday, January 23 in the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee. UW President Mark Emmert was joined by UW Tacoma Chancellor, Patricia Spakes and UW Bothell Acting Chancellor, Steve Olswang in a 30 minute presentation to committee members on various issues related to the University.

President Emmert's remarks focused on the growing prominence of the University internationally and the critical importance of maintaining our competitiveness with other research universities. He advocated for several 2006 supplemental budget requests including funds to improve undergraduate education and promote economic development through increased state support for UW research initiatives.

Chancellor's Spakes and Olswang made presentations focused on preparations at each campus for their first freshman class in the fall of 2006. Permission to offer lower division courses was provided by the legislature in the 2005 session and each campus received funding for freshmen FTE students in the 2005-07 biennial budget.

On Wednesday, the House Capital Budget Committee held a work session to hear the interim report on the Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties higher education needs assessment and an update on the development of the 2007-09 higher education capital budget prioritized list. Assistant Vice Provost for Capital Planning and Budgeting, Marilyn Cox gave a presentation to committee members on the recent report from the University of Washington on various models for the ongoing management of higher education capital facilities investments.

In the Senate Natural Resources, Ocean and Recreation Committee, Burke Museum of Natural History Director, Julie Stein testified on SB 5017, sponsored by Sen. Ken Jacobsen (D-Seattle), which would require that money from the sale of logs or wood on aquatic lands be dedicated to the operation of the museum.

On Thursday January 26, the House Capital Budget Committee held a public hearing on the 2006 Supplemental Capital Budget. Director of State Relations, Randy Hodgins testified on behalf of the University, encouraging committee members to consider support for several UW capital budget

project requests including \$4.5 million to remodel space on campus for new nanotechnology labs and equipment and \$4.7 million for land acquisition and soils remediation for the UW Tacoma campus.

Dean Somerman, Dental Students Join WSDA For Dental Lobby Day

On Friday, January 27, School of Dentistry Dean Martha J. Somerman and more than thirty dental students joined members of the Washington State Dental Association (WSDA) for the annual Dental Lobby Day in Olympia.

David Hemion, Executive VP of WSDA briefed students on the operations of the legislature during a short session over breakfast in the Columbia Room of the Legislative building at 7:30 a.m. Shortly thereafter, Michael Layton, American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Legislative Liaison, partnered dental students with area dentists. Each team briefed legislators and their aides on the School's funding priorities and answered questions related to oral health. They also shared information about the School's service to disadvantaged and disabled populations; the effects of MEDICAID funding reductions; and, retaining the School's ability to continue training culturally-competent oral health care professionals.

Together, these teams completed over fifty legislative meetings, including visits with members of the health care committees in both houses and elected officials from their home districts.

Preview of Week Four Activities

This is the final week for policy committees in the Senate and House to consider legislation originating in their own chambers. Therefore, committees will be meeting virtually round the clock to insure they finish by the scheduled Friday, February 3 cutoff deadline.

On Monday January 30, the House Capital Budget Committee will hold a work session on "63-20" financing mechanisms at 1:30 p.m. State Treasurer Mike Murphy is scheduled to present the findings of his report on the topic. UW Senior Associate Treasurer, Doug Breckel will also make a presentation to the committee on how the University uses 63-20 financings as part of its overall debt management and capital financing programs.

At the same time, the House Commerce and Labor Committee will hold a public hearing on HB 3160 at 1:30 p.m. which requires disclosure of work performed on contract for state agencies in other countries.

At 3:30 p.m., the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee will hold a public hearing on SB 6699 which would require regents and trustees of all six public baccalaureate institutions to require affiliated bookstores to employ a variety of strategies aimed at reducing the cost of textbooks and related course materials.

At 6:00 p.m., the House State Government Operations and Accountability Committee is scheduled to hold a public hearing on HB 2724 which would significantly restrict the sale of property by public agencies, including the University, to private entities. UW Director of Real Estate, Jeanette Henderson will testify on behalf of the University which is opposed to the bill.

On Tuesday January 31, Dr. Gabriel Aeppli, the Director of the University of London Centre for Nanotechnology will visit Olympia for meetings with the Governor and other key legislative leaders. The UW is actively recruiting Dr. Aeppli and has a 2006 supplemental capital budget request to remodel space on campus for a new nanotechnology laboratory.

At 1:30 p.m., the House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee will hold a public hearing on HB 3058 which is the companion bill to SB 6699 concerning college textbooks and course materials.

That evening, The Olympian newspaper is sponsoring a Higher Education Forum at 7:00 p.m. in the Columbia Room of the State Capitol. President Mark Emmert and WSU President Lane Rawlins are scheduled to appear along with Les Purce from The Evergreen State College and the presidents of Saint Martin's University and South Puget Sound Community College. The forum is free.

Wednesday, February 1 is ASUW Lobby Day in Olympia and several hundred students are scheduled to descend on the state capitol campus to encourage lawmakers to support student concerns and the needs of the University.

At 5:30 p.m., the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee will hold a public hearing on SB 6697 which establishes technology priorities for institutions of higher education.

On Thursday February 2, the House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee will hold a public hearing on HB 1434 by Rep. Fred Jarrett and Rep. Skip Priest which would establish a strategic direction for higher education in Washington State. UW Provost Phyllis Wise is scheduled to testify on the bill which is supported by the University. Also being heard at the hearing is HB 2123 which requires adoption of rules regulating off-campus conduct.

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.

University Position: Concerns about broad nature of housing inspection program and ability to inspect private housing stock.

Status: Referred to the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee

Health Technology Assessment -- HB 2575 (Cody) and SB 6306 (Keiser)

Establishes an evidence-based health technology assessment program.

University Position: Support.

Status: Public hearing held on HB 2575 held in House Health Care Committee on January 19. Public hearing on SB 6306 held in Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee on January 25.

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.

University Position: Support.

Status: Public hearing held in House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee on January 20.

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

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

University Position: Opposed unless bill is modified to permit unused waivers to be used in other categories.

Status: Public hearing held in House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee on January 20.

Requiring Disclosure of Outsourcing -- HB 3160 (Hudgins)

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

University Position: Concerns about impact on research and study abroad programs and additional reporting requirements.

Status: Public hearing scheduled in House Commerce and Labor Committee January 30 at 1:30 p.m.

Establishing Technology Priorities for Institutions of Higher Education -- HB 2817 (Sells) and SB 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 with some clarifying changes.

Status: Public hearing held on HB 2817 held January 25 in House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee. Public hearing on SB 6697 scheduled in the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee on February 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Modifying Provisions of the Model Toxics Control Act – SB 6474 (Regala)

Exempts state and local governments from liability under the Model Toxics Control Act when ownership is based solely on easement, street or right of way interest.

University Position: Oppose due to concerns about limitation of liability related to City of Tacoma and possible contamination of property on campus property.

Status: Referred to Senate Water, Energy and Environment Committee.

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 June 1 instead of July 1.

University Position: Support.

Status: SB 6567 passed the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee on January 26. HB 2857 passed the House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee on January 27.

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 provides \$1.5 million in funding for the school to contact with four year institutions to provide baccalaureate education on the campus.

University Position: Support

Status: Public hearing held January 27 in House Higher Education and Workforce Education Committee.

Regulating the Sale of Public Lands – HB 2724 (Hasegawa)

Prohibits public agencies from selling real property to private parties unless certain conditions are met.

University Position: Opposed

Status: Public hearing scheduled January 30 in State Government Operations and Accountability Committee.