

1. Legislative updates

Operating

The last three Joint Ways & Means **virtual budget hearings** were held last week. Advocates spoke in support of K-12 funding, housing, early learning, state wildfire recovery, COVID recovery, **university funding** and many other parts of the state budget.

The JWM virtual budget hearings solicited feedback on the use of **one-time federal funds** as well as General Fund requests. The committee tri-chairs continue to state their interest in saving about \$500M of the federal funds.

In an experiment that upends the normal budgeting process in Salem, Democratic leaders are now planning to let lawmakers personally dictate how federal aid can be spent within their districts. Under a plan being put forward by the Presiding Officers, \$240M in relief money from the ARPA would be separated out from the normal jockeying for cash that comes with the biennial budgeting process, **with \$4M set aside for each Senate district and \$2M set aside for each House district**. A deadline of May 10 for legislators to submit plans for the money that would be checked against the federal ARPA spending requirements which are expected sometime in mid-May.

The universities requested full funding for a list of 13 projects requiring \$359M in state bonds plus \$80M for Capital Improvement and Renewal (CIR).

[Senate Bill 233](#) Common course numbering to support transfer students has been referred to Joint Ways and Means.

[House Bill 2835](#) **benefits navigator**. This bill passed unanimously out of House Education last week with a \$5M fiscal statement. It was referred to Joint Ways and Means.

[House Bill 2590](#) **Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students**. Rep. Alonso Leon is holding a work group meeting this week to discuss amendments that we hope we will establish an explicit role for campus voices, in addition to those of students, on the task force. It has been referred to Joint Ways and Means.

[SB 854](#) might receive a public hearing in the Senate Rules Committee. The bill would, among other things, authorize the HECC to evaluate and overturn university governing board decisions. The bill was initially sponsored by Sen. Frederick and Reps. McLain and Evans. Sen. Gelser has since added her name to the bill and is pushing for a public hearing based on recent events at OSU.

Unclassified employees to default into the Optional Retirement Plan. This proposal will not move forward this Session.

The House Education Committee unanimously passed [HB 2093](#) to JWM last week after adopting [amendments](#) proposed by Republicans on the committee. The HECC has proposed that the bill be

amended to make the following changes to the Oregon Promise grant program: pipeline students pursuing bachelors' degrees at universities in Oregon would be eligible to receive grants, the minimum award would increase to \$2,000, and the GPA for eligibility would be decreased from 2.5 to 2.0.

2. **CARES II**

WOU distributed over \$2.1M to nearly 1,200 students based on financial need from CARES funds. An additional distribution of slightly more than \$60,000 from WOU Foundation sources to support 35 tuition equity (DACA) applicants.

University Capital Projects

University	Project	XI-Q	XI-G	Lottery or General Funds	Total State Funds	Institutional Funds	Total Project Cost	Running Total (State Funds)
All	Capital Improvement and Renewal	80,000,000	-	-	80,000,000	-	80,000,000	\$ 80,000,000
WOU*	Student Success Center	21,340,000			21,340,000	660,000	22,000,000	\$ 101,340,000
OSU-CC*	Student Success Center	8,800,000		5,000,000	13,800,000	5,000,000	17,900,000	\$ 115,140,000
SOU*	Cascade Hall Demolition			3,500,000	3,500,000			\$ 118,640,000
PSU	The Gateway Center Reuse and Extension	45,000,000		-	50,000,000	18,000,000	68,000,000	\$ 168,640,000
OSU	Cordley Hall Renovation Phase II	61,000,000		-	86,000,000	57,000,000	143,000,000	\$ 254,640,000
EOU	Inlow Hall Renovation Phase II	17,700,000		-	18,264,900	564,900	18,829,800	\$ 272,904,900
UO	Heritage Renovation Project	52,650,000		-	58,500,000	5,850,000	64,350,000	\$ 331,404,900
EOU	Loso Hall Renovation Phase II	27,006,000		-	27,868,000	862,000	28,730,000	\$ 359,272,900
SOU	Music Hall Renovation	13,650,000		-	13,650,000	-	13,650,000	\$ 372,922,900
WOU	Health Sciences Remodel	49,500,000		742,500	50,242,500	-	50,985,000	\$ 423,165,400
OIT	Learning Resource Center Rehabilitation	19,035,000		-	19,642,500	607,500	20,250,000	\$ 442,807,900
	Subtotals	395,681,000	43,626,900	3,500,000	442,807,900	88,544,400	527,694,800	

Universities - Fully Self Funded	Project	XI-F	Institutional Funds	Total Project Cost
PSU	Gateway Center	18,000,000	-	18,000,000
OIT	New Residence Hall Facility	55,000,000	-	55,000,000
OSU	Reser Stadium West Grandstands	40,000,000	145,000,000	175,000,000
	Subtotals	113,000,000	145,000,000	248,000,000