

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

February 21, 2005
3:00 P.M.

Hearing Room D
Tapes 28 - 31

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Vicki Walker, Chair
Sen. Charles Starr, Vice-Chair
Sen. Ryan Deckert
Sen. Jeff Kruse
Sen. Bill Morrisette

STAFF PRESENT: Marjorie Taylor, Committee Administrator
Dawn Tusso, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:
Oregon University System (OUS) - Informational Meeting
SB 414 – Work Session
SB 342 – Public Hearing
SB 369 – Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 28, A		
005	Chair Walker	Calls meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Opens informational meeting on the Oregon University System (OUS).
<u>OREGON UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - INFORMATIONAL MEETING</u>		
013	George Pernsteiner	Acting Chancellor, Oregon University System. Submits written material (EXHIBIT A). Gives a brief introduction of the Oregon University System.
030	Tim Nesbitt	Member of the higher education board. Talks about work groups. Talks about affordability gap. Discusses model for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. States that he would like to provide the opportunity of the Oregon Opportunity Grant to all students who apply, year round without a cut off deadline. Talks about the shock of the cost of tuition and how grant funding alleviates that shock. Mentions the Challenge Grant. Wants to extend the opportunity to part time college students. States that cost should not be an overwhelming deterrent for individuals wanting a college education.
123	Sen. Morrisette	Asks if past studies have been looked at to be built upon.
130	Nesbitt	Replies yes.
133	Sen. Morrisette	Talks about incentive ideas for graduating high school students for college funding.
145	Nesbitt	Agrees that it is a good idea.
150	Sen. Morrisette	Asks for clarification regarding the acronym OSAC.
152	Nesbitt	Clarifies that OSAC is the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.
155	Chair Walker	Asks if the working group existed before the restructuring of the higher ed board.
158	Nesbitt	Replies yes.
160	Chair Walker	Talks about work groups and effectiveness.
168	Nesbitt	Responds.

183	Sen. Deckert	Expresses interest in a flat grant. Asks if that is the direction Oregon is moving in.
192	Nesbitt	States that Oregon is moving in that direction. Reports that the rate of increase is much higher for public institutions rather than private institutions.
207	Sen. Deckert	Wants to accelerate the process to move into the direction of a flat grant.
220	Nesbitt	States that it has been discussed at great length and that the decision has been made to move in that direction.
226	Sen. Deckert	Asks question regarding using the Oregon Opportunity Grant as the primary vehicle for the constitutional dedicated funding source.
235	Nesbitt	Explains future of funding options.
247	Chair Walker	Agrees that a plan is needed. Considers looking at a ten year plan. Knows that the Opportunity Grant is pivotal.
269	Pernsteiner	Reports that the OUS serves more than 80,000 students and that there are about 2,500 regular faculty. States that the OUS is a \$ 2.2 billion a year enterprise of which 17 percent comes from state appropriations. Reports that the OUS receives \$300 million a year from the federal government and private sources.
315	Pernsteiner	Talks about the OUS performance and accountability framework (EXHIBIT A, Page 2) . Talks about student success, retention, and graduation rates. Discusses affordability. Reports that universities are offering debt counseling to their students.
402	Chair Walker	Asks, at what point during a student's enrollment do they receive debt counseling.
415	Pernsteiner	Replies that it varies from campus to campus.
TAPE 29, A		
001	Pernsteiner	Stresses the question of how to make sure that students graduate with as little debt as possible.
011	Chair Walker	States that it is critical for students to be sure that they are on the right track. Talks about loan availability and the lack of good financial guidance programs. States that the committee will be having a meeting about financial illiteracy. Shares interest in receiving a report back on how the financial guidance counseling process is going and how the students are receiving the information.
027	Pernsteiner	Talks about transfer credits.
043	Pernsteiner	Shares focus on advanced placement classes in high schools and bottleneck courses at the universities. Mentions higher education work groups.
046	Chair Walker	Asks if the work groups are listed in the material.
048	Pernsteiner	Replies no.
049	Chair Walker	Asks for information regarding the work groups.
050	Pernsteiner	Agrees to get the information to the committee.
055	Pernsteiner	Talks about the work groups and their focus areas.
080	Chair Walker	Asks, if a student needs a course to graduate and it is not offered at the college or university, can that student take the course at another college or university and transfer the credits in.
092	Pernsteiner	Replies that there may be a number of options for the student depending on the institution.
099	Chair Walker	Asks about sequence classes.
105	Pernsteiner	Replies that they are being addressed.
113	Pernsteiner	Shares that the focus has been to find a way, without diluting

		academic quality, to help students move through the educational process more effectively and more quickly.
120	Pernsteiner	Continues discussion on work groups.
140	Pernsteiner	Talks about long range planning Pre-K through continuing education.
147	Pernsteiner	Talks about Chancellor's office. States that the board has decentralized authority to campuses. Discusses tuition mitigation efforts.
172	Chair Walker	Asks if there is a document that shows how the money was saved.
174	Pernsteiner	Replies that it can be provided.
182	Chair Walker	Asks if the money was spent in areas other than tuition mitigation.
184	Pernsteiner	Explains how the money was used.
203	Pernsteiner	Talks about review being done on the controller's division and the human resources division. Mentions the creation of the provost council. Discusses new financial policies and requirements.
240	Pernsteiner	Discusses the 2005-07 budget initiative. Talks about affordability and tuition moderation.
290	Chair Walker	Agrees that we need a plan. Expresses concerns about accountability with the decentralized structure of the Chancellor's office.
335	Sen. Deckert	Asks about the two percent increase. Says, "as we look into the out years, Oregon has become more reliant on federal transfers that are undoubtedly being cut." Talks about investing in excellence. Asks if Oregon can continue with the current structure of seven universities.
388	Pernsteiner	Feels that we will be faced with the necessity for increased and consistent investment by the state. States that, for us to succeed as a state, we must do two things and do them well. Says that we must find a way to provide every Oregonian with a post secondary education. Believes that the opportunity has to be for quality. Talks about intellectual capital around the world.
TAPE 28, B		
010	Sen. Deckert	Hopes that the really difficult choices are confronted.
022	Chair Walker	Clarifies that Sen. Deckert is talking about what is going on in Washington right now.
030	Sen. Deckert	Replies that Oregon has more campuses than Washington with one third less the population of Washington.
038	Karen Sprague	Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, University of Oregon. Discusses problems with the transfer process. Talks about the Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree. Discusses the General Education Oregon Transfer Module (OTM). Talks about the focus on general education. Discusses ways the OTM helps.
130	Sprague	Gives an overview of the two OTM packages offered. Talks about maximizing OTM effectiveness.
170	Sprague	Reads an Oregon State University example of what would qualify as a transferable course.
190	Sprague	Continues to talk about maximizing OTM effectiveness. Discusses course equivalencies based on outcomes.
205	Sen. Kruse	Asks what is wrong with students taking lower level courses in a particular area to fulfill the graduation requirement.
214	Sprague	Explains that some students do not have interest in taking courses that do not apply to the students' major or area of interest.

228	Sen. Kruse	Says that college is supposed to be challenging. Wonders why what has worked in the past is not working now.
242	Sprague	Responds with regret that some students are not interested in the beginning courses in the discipline areas. States that it seems to be a pattern.
258	Sen. Kruse	Talks about benefit of taking interdisciplinary courses.
285	Valerie Ward	Dean of Business and Social Science, Mount Hood Community College. Submits informational packet including information on the articulation transfer linked degree audit system Oregon (ATLAS) (EXHIBIT B). Talks about ATLAS.
355	Cindy Baccar	Associate Director, Portland State university. Talks about the Course Applicability System (CAS). Offers a brief background regarding the implementation of the system. Provides an example of how to use CAS online.

TAPE 29, B

001	Baccar	Continues to provide example of how to use CAS.
025	Baccar	Discusses CAS capabilities.
045	Chair Walker	Asks if students can get their transcript information from CAS.
050	Baccar	Replies, not yet.
080	Chair Walker	Closes informational meeting and opens work session on SB 414.

SB 414 - WORK SESSION

085	Marjorie Taylor	Committee Administrator. Gives overview on SB 414 (EXHIBIT C). States that SB 414 has a subsequent referral to the Revenue committee.
088	Chair Walker	Explains why she wants to move SB 414 today.
095	Sen. Kruse	Says that he is not opposed to the concept but that he doesn't want SB 414 to go to Revenue. States that he will be voting no because he would like to see that the funding cuts to head start be restored first.
102	Sen. C. Starr	States that he is ready to move SB 414 to Revenue but shares concern regarding funding.
111	Sen. Morrisette	States that he is supportive of half day kindergarten only but will move SB 414 to Revenue.
115	Chair Walker	Reports that she is doing some research to find out who is advising Title 1 schools in how to access money available for extended day kindergarten.
121	Sen. C. Starr	MOTION: Moves SB 414 to the floor WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION as to passage and BE REFERRED to the committee on Revenue.
122		VOTE: 4-1-0 AYE: 4 - Deckert, Morrisette, Starr C., Walker NAY: 1 - Kruse The motion CARRIES.
	Chair Walker	
129	Chair Walker	Closes work session on SB 414 and opens public hearing on SB 369 and SB 342.

SB 342 & SB 369 – PUBLIC HEARING

130	Marjorie Taylor	Committee Administrator. Gives overview of SB 369 (EXHIBIT D) and SB 342 (EXHIBIT E).
157	Sen. Schrader	Represents Senate District 20. Testifies in support of SB 342.
228	Chair Walker	Points out that all individuals signed up to testify on SB 342 and SB 369 have specified opposition to both bills.

236	Sen. Courtney	Represents Senate District 11. Testifies in support of SB 369. Submits and reads written testimony (EXHIBIT F). Points out a correction on the written testimony being that there are 17 community colleges in Oregon, not 19 community colleges.
335	Sen. Courtney	States that the Oregon Transfer Module (OTM) is a remarkable thing.
348	Sen. Kruse	Asks Sen. Courtney if he would have opposition to advanced placement classes being included. Asks what the major objection is to SB 369.
356	Sen. Courtney	Replies that he would not have objection. Replies that he does not know the answer to Sen. Kruse's second question.
410	Sen. Morrisette	Asks if he has a curriculum guide.
415	Sen. Courtney	Responds yes.
420	Sen. Morrisette	Asks if he wants the schools throughout the state to have an identical curriculum guide. Asks if the schools have that now.
427	Sen. Courtney	Replies that he does not know the answer to the question. Says that he used a simplistic approach in SB 369.
TAPE 30, A		
005	Sen. Courtney	Talks about core curriculum.
023	Sen. Morrisette	States that a common curriculum guide might be useless because courses are taught differently. Says that he sees real problems with saying that all 101 level courses are the same because they are all taught differently.
030	Sen. Courtney	Responds that the hope is that there would be a minimum standard that would be adhered to.
035	Sen. Deckert	Talks about work group that has been working on dealing with the issues discussed.
047	Sen. Courtney	Remarks that the student should come first.
055	Sen. C. Starr	Talks about the issue of courses not aligning with the university system across the board.
085	Joanne Truesdell	Assistant Commissioner, Community Colleges and Workforce Development. Testifies in opposition to SB 342 and SB 369 as drafted.
105	Elaine Yandle-Roth	Community College and Workforce Development Education Specialist. Submits written testimony on SB 342 (EXHIBIT G) and SB 369 (EXHIBIT H). Testifies in opposition to SB 342 and SB 369.
179	Agnes Hoffman	Associate Vice Provost, Portland State University. Testifies in opposition to SB 342 and SB 369. Submits written testimony on SB 342 (EXHIBIT I) and SB 369 (EXHIBIT J).
260	Andrea Henderson	Executive Director, Oregon Community College Association. Submits written testimony on SB 342 (EXHIBIT K) and SB 369 (EXHIBIT L). Testifies in opposition to SB 342 and SB 369.
290	Ed Watson	Vice-President, Academic Affairs, Linn Benton Community College. Testifies in opposition to SB 342 and SB 369.
345	Karen Sprague	Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies, University of Oregon. Testifies in opposition to SB 342 and SB 369.
387	Bob Turner	Associate Professor, Western Oregon University. Testifies in opposition to SB 342 and SB 369. Submits written testimony on SB 342 (EXHIBIT M) and SB 369 (EXHIBIT N).
TAPE 31, A		
005	Turner	Continues testimony.
030	Sen. Kruse	Comments that the content is what is relevant. Feels that the issue is important and that the legislature needs to move forward with

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. **Oregon University System, System Overview, George Pernsteiner, 8 pp**
- B. **Oregon University System, Transfer Course Applicability System information, Valerie Ward, 11 pp**
- C. **SB 414, staff, 5 pp**
- D. **SB 369, staff, 1 p**
- E. **SB 342, staff, 1 p**
- F. **SB 369, written testimony, Sen. Peter Courtney, 2 pp**
- G. **SB 342, written testimony, Elaine Yandle-Roth, 19 pp**
- H. **SB 369, written testimony, Elaine Yandle-Roth, 19 pp**
- I. **SB 342, written testimony, Agnes Hoffman, 1 p**
- J. **SB 369, written testimony, Agnes Hoffman, 1 p**
- K. **SB 342, written testimony, Andrea Henderson, 1 p**
- L. **SB 369, written testimony, Andrea Henderson, 1 p**
- M. **SB 342, written testimony, Bob Turner, 4 pp**
- N. **SB 369, written testimony, Bob Turner, 4 pp**