Higher Education Budget

The Ways & Means Committee concluded the budget hearings on Saturday, April 25th. The committee heard from many PSU students, faculty, alumni, athletes, and staff members during the roadshow hearings as they advocated for $755 million to fund higher education. Their testimony urged the budget committee to ask the legislature to keep tuition affordable and provide enough classes and services to ensure that all students can graduate on time. The state ranks 47th in terms of state support for higher education. State funding decreased by 38 percent between 2007 and 2014. During that same period, tuition and fees at public universities increased by 41 percent.

PSU Advocates sent an action alert to alumni requesting them to email the budget committee to express support for a quality education for students and affordable tuition. We generated over 3,300 emails to members of the Ways and Means committee from alumni and PSU supporters.

Take a look at photos from the roadshow hearings at the end of the newsletter.

HECC

The full commission of the HECC met on April 9, 2015. The commission approved a significant change to the model, which calculates distributions of state funding to Oregon’s public universities. This approach shifts the basis for state funding distribution from enrollment—seats in a class—to access and successful completion of degrees for resident students.

Sexual Assault

On April 6, the House Judiciary voted HB 3467 out of Committee unanimously. The bill establishes privilege in civil, administrative and school proceedings for certain communications between persons seeking services related to domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking and victim services programs and advocates.
Photos from the Ways and Means Subcommittee budget hearings