2013 Legislative Priorities

Operating and Capital Budgets

**SB 5535** – The Governor proposed $737 million for Oregon's seven universities for the 2013-15 biennium. Although this is an increase from the 2011-13 funding levels, it is insufficient to prevent tuition increases for PSU students. It also will not provide adequate funds to hire more tenured faculty, help students graduate on time, and keep PSU on track to achieve the state’s 40-40-20 goal. PSU is also asking the legislature to restore Sports Action Lottery scholarship money. PSU uses these lottery funds for 126 student athlete scholarships which primarily benefit women and minorities.

**SB 5506** – PSU has requested bonding authority for three projects:

- **School of Business**: This renovation and expansion of the School of Business includes 11 classrooms and a new auditorium. PSU’s MBA program has become a national leader and this new facility will accommodate our growing student body and the school’s centers of excellence. The Graduate School of Education, which is housed in the existing building, is expected to relocate to Neuberger Hall.

- **Stott Educational Center/Viking Pavilion**: PSU’s 30,000 student body is in desperate need of large event and study space. The renovation and expansion of the Stott Center will address both of these needs by creating a 5,000 seat multi-use event space and 36,000 square feet of academic and student study space. The current Stott Center is in need of 16 million dollars of deferred maintenance. The leaky roof has forced the cancellation of 73 classes during the past two years. PSU’s generous donors will commit $20 million private dollars to this project to match the state’s contribution dollar for dollar.

- **Neuberger Hall**: The Neuberger Hall renovation will bring the building to code, improve 238,000 square feet of existing space, upgrade 45 classrooms and labs, create student meeting areas and improve building energy efficiency. The renovated building will also house the Graduate School of Education. Although it is unlikely that the project will receive funding this session, it will be a high priority for PSU in upcoming legislative sessions.
Oregon Opportunity Grant
SB 5535 - The Oregon Opportunity Grant is Oregon’s only state-funded, need-based grant program to help low and middle income Oregon residents achieve academic success and become productive members of their communities. The governor’s budget proposes approximately 63,000 awards averaging $1,800 for the 2013-15 biennium. PSU students consistently receive the largest amount of Opportunity Grant money. During the 2011-12 academic year, 3,184 PSU students received an Opportunity Grant – and MANY more were eligible but remained unfunded.

Tuition Equity
HB 2787A - This bill allows PSU to charge in-state tuition for students who have attended at least three years at an Oregon high school regardless of their documentation status. Leveling the playing field for these students benefits Oregon businesses and employers, by making a college degree more accessible. HB 2787A does not grant any financial aid to students and requires students to demonstrate their intent to become a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

University Governance
SB 270 - This bill creates an institutional board for Portland State University. PSU needs an institutional board that: 1) has the time and expertise to focus on PSU; 2) reflects the interests of the region; 3) creates an education pipeline for students in the metropolitan region; 4) increases “ownership” of the university by the metropolitan region, and; 5) has the statutory authority to control and manage the university. This governance model offers PSU the best opportunity to succeed and help the state meet its 40-40-20 goal.

HB 2149 - This bill creates a statewide governance structure for Oregon’s public universities, including a new Department of Post-Secondary Education (DPSE) and a Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). PSU believes that a statewide coordinating body should continue approving: University mission statements and mission alignment; requests to establish or close colleges, new schools and major academic programs; offer new degrees, and; coordinate the public universities’ budget and capital requests.

Oregon’s 40/40/20 Goal
SB 253 (2011) set an “aspirational” 40-40-20 goal by the year 2025 to have 40% of adults with at least a bachelor’s degree, another 40% with an associate’s degree or post-secondary certificate, and the remaining 20% with a high school diploma or its equivalent. One report prepared for the OEIB estimated that over 250,000 additional certificates, associate’s and bachelor’s degrees will be required by 2025 to meet this goal. PSU is committed to supporting this goal by striving to keep higher education affordable and accessible for all Oregonians.

Did you know?
That Portland State University class of 2012 was the largest graduating class in Oregon university history. A total of 6,165 students received diplomas. They came from 50 countries and nearly every state in the union, and ranged in age from 19 to 72. The class received approximately 4,400 bachelor’s degrees, 1,700 master’s degrees and 65 Ph.D. degrees. The majority of these graduates were women, most started their college career at a community college, and the vast majority will continue to live in the metropolitan region.