The Oregon Student Association had a successful 2019 legislative session in terms of policy and faced challenges in the budget that we were able to secure.

In November 2018, Oregonians elected a Democrat-supermajority in both chambers: 18 Democrat seats in the Senate and 38 seats in the House. The Oregon Republicans had 8 senate seats and 22 house representative seats. According to the Statesman Journal, the last time that Oregon had a supermajority in both chambers was 2009. This created an interesting power dynamic, where towards the end of the session Republicans organized actions in order to get their voices heard.

The Oregon Student Association focused on three main areas for our priority 1 issues: Affordability, Student Safety and Resources for Undocumented Communities. Each priority had a couple of bills that paired with it:

In terms of Affordability, OSA worked on advocating for increased budgets for the Public Universities Support Fund, Community College Support Fund, and Oregon Opportunity Grant, as well as three additional bills. House Bill 2213 is the textbook affordability plan policy. This bill mandates that Universities and Community Colleges establish an affordability plan. HB 2214, Open Educational Resources funding. This bill continues the funding for the free online textbooks program. Lastly, we worked on HB 3310, the Tuition Freeze Bill. This bill mandated that universities and community colleges freeze tuition for the next biennium.

OSA also worked on two bills that addressed Student Safety on campuses. SB 576, also known as “Kaylee’s Law” imposes requirements to the uniforms of a campus public safety officer and removes their stop and frisk authority. The other bill we worked on was HB 3338, which would prevent campus police from carrying their guns outside of the police headquarters.

Lastly, it was important for our board members that we focused in mitigating barriers for undocumented communities to access education. We worked on four bills as our priority ones. SB 854 allows professional licensing boards to accept Individual Tax Identification Numbers in lieu of a Social Security Number. SB 859 clarifies that students who qualify for Tuition Equity are also eligible for in-state tuition at a graduate level. SB 958 would have created the Dreamers Access Program, a pilot loan program for undocumented students. And lastly, we worked on HB 2015, the law that would permit people who do not have a social security number to apply for a driver’s license.

All of our priority issues were decided by our OSA boards who were involved in 2017, 2018 and 2019. OSA students identified that these are some of the issues that are pressing to Oregon Students. We were successful in passing the majority, but not all, of our priority 1 bills, as well as greatly increasing funding for colleges and universities from what the Ways and Means Co-Chairs had originally planned to allocate.
The following report highlights the different priorities for the Oregon Student Association. The hope is that this report will help students and staff to learn about the 2019 legislative bills that OSA helped to pass and help to identify priorities for the new cycle. The report will also highlight the missed opportunities and recommendations for next actions.
Why We Lobby

The Oregon Student Association is known to be one of the most powerful entities in Oregon. Over the years, OSA has been successful in passing legislation and a higher education budget that benefits all students in Oregon. Students have been able to uphold this power because we have been highly engaged in the electoral process by registering thousands of students to vote through our Vote OR Vote program.

The Oregon Student Association is one of a kind. There is no other organized group that lobbies the state legislature on the interest of higher education for students in Oregon and at the direction of students in Oregon. OSA is invited to be present at various policy development or workgroup meetings because decision makers want us to be present. As an example of how important OSA is, some legislators would only work on the introduction of new policies and changes in policies IF the Oregon Student Association was on board and involved in the policy development process. Don’t underestimate the power you have - we can create a great change in our education system and to accomplish this, we need to continue having a strong base.

Member campuses of OSA have always believed that organizing is the best way to engage people impacted by our priority issues.

If you would like to know more about the Vote OR Vote Program or about how to build student power at the state level, please contact one of your field or campus organizers to ask for a training on this topic.
Passed

HB 2213 - Textbook Affordability Plan
- Mandates that community colleges and universities put in place a textbook affordability plan

SB 859 - Tuition Equity 4.0 for graduate students –
- Clarifies that graduate students who meet the requirements of tuition equity qualify for in-state tuition.

SB 854 – Professional Licensing
- Allows licensing boards to accept Individual Tax Identification Numbers in lieu of a Social Security Number

SB 576 - Kaylee’s Law
- Puts limitations on campus public safety uniforms and puts restrictions on the appearance of vehicles. This bill also removes their stop and frisk authority

HB 2015 – Equal Access to Roads
- Allows DMV to grant Oregon Driver’s Licenses to all Oregon residents even if they do not have a social security number

Missed Opportunities

SB 958 - Dreamers Access Program
- Creates a state loan program for Tuition Equity recipients.

HB 3331 - Tuition Freeze
- This bill would institute a tuition freeze for the 2019-2021 biennium.

HB 3338 - Disarm PSU and UO
- This bill would mandate that campus police at Portland State University and the University of Oregon keep their firearms in the headquarters.
HB 2213 - Textbook Affordability

Summary: This bill requires that universities and community colleges develop a textbook affordability plan.

Chief Sponsors: at the request of House Interim Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Regular sponsors: at the request of House Interim Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

Path to passage:
- This bill was pre-session filed and first read on the House Chamber on January 14th.
- House Hearing: The bill was first heard on the House Committee on Education on February 25th.
- House Worksession: The bill successfully passed the House Committee on Education with 9 votes in favor of the bill.
- House Floor Vote: Carried by Doherty. Passed. Ayes, 60
- Senate Hearing: The bill was scheduled for a hearing on the Senate side on April 24th.
- Senate Worksession: This bill successfully passed the Senate Committee on Education with 3 votes in favor. Two committee members were excused this day.
- Senate Floor Vote: Carried by Gelser. Passed. Ayes, 27; Nays, 1--Linthicum; Excused, 2--Olsen, Winters.

Coalition: We worked on this bill in collaboration with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the office of Representative Reardon, who used to be the chair of the House Committee on Higher Education.

Challenges: This bill passed with an amendment proposed by the universities. The original bill included that instructors should post the list of textbooks at the time of registration. If the instructor needed to change their textbook, the textbook would have to be of lower or equal cost. Universities, faculty and bookstores did not like this addition, so they worked on an amendment. Representative Doherty did not want to move the bill unless there was consensus, so the section was removed in order to pass the bill.

Recommendations: OSA should work in collaboration with the HECC and the OER coalition to include the section that was removed from the original bill and add more standards for the textbook affordability plan.
HB 2214 - Open Educational Resources

**Summary:** Appropriates money from General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for the purpose of funding Oregon’s Open Educational Resources (OER) Program

**Chief Sponsors:** at the request of House Interim Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

**Regular sponsors:** at the request of House Interim Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.

**Path to passage:**
- This bill was pre-session filed and first read on the House Chamber on January 14th.
- **House Hearing:** The bill was first heard on the House Committee on Education on February 25th. OSA turned out students to testify in favor.
- **House Worksession:** The bill successfully passed the House Committee on Education with 9 votes in favor of the bill. Recommendation: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
- **Ways and Means Committee:** This bill was included in HB 5024, the bill that gives funding to the HECC. The amount allocated to the OER was $669,000 for the program, keeping it a Current Service Level and instituting a permanent line item in the higher education budget.

**Coalition:** Our coalition included the office of Representative Reardon, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Oregon Open Educational Resources Coordinator.

**Challenges:** Higher education budgets were an overall challenge. Throughout session, legislators were reluctant to fund higher education, due to a focus on k-12 funding as well as the political climate in Salem regarding university budgets.

**Recommendations:** OERs have the potential to keep improving and the program could be expanded. The Oregon Student Association can continue to advocate for funding expansion for the OER program.
### HB 2214 Budget Scenarios
Statewide funding for textbook affordability and open education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Item Description</th>
<th>Flat (ish) Funding</th>
<th>Growth Funding</th>
<th>Wish List Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td>Coordinator Salary and Benefits</td>
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<td>$116,364</td>
<td>$116,364</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant Salary and Benefits</td>
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<td>Grant-based OER Projects and related costs (e.g. OPE)</td>
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<td>Faculty development</td>
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<td>Open Education Publishing Librarian Salary and Benefits</td>
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<td>Grants to support each institution implementing textbook affordability plan</td>
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<td>Open source homework platform startup fund</td>
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<td>Contract researcher for statewide faculty awareness survey</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>Indirect Costs - LBCC (10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$1,258,250</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,790,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2017-19 funding is not in CSL*
SB 576 - Kaylee’s Law

Summary: Campus safety officers would undergo a required criminal record background check, requires their uniforms to be different from that of a police officer and also states that they do not have stop and frisk authority. SB 576 also requires campus safety vehicles to have a GPS device and camera while also ensuring that the vehicle differentiates from that of a police car and prohibits the use of cages.

Chief Sponsors: Senator Prozanski, Knopp, Representative Barker, Helt


Path to passage
  - This bill was pre-session filed and first read on the Senate Chamber on January 14th.
  - Senate Hearing: The bill was first heard on the Senate Committee on Judiciary on March 13th. OSA turned out 3 students from University of Oregon, and Central Oregon Community College.
  - Work Session: The bill successfully passed the Senate Committee on Judiciary with 7 votes in favor of the bill
  - Senate Floor Vote: Carried by Knopp, Prozanski. Passed. Ayes, 29; Excused, 1-Winters
  - House Hearing: The bill was scheduled for a hearing on the House side on May 7th. OSA turned out 6 students from Central Oregon Community College, Linn Benton Community College, Lane Community College, and Western Oregon University
  - Work Session: The bill successfully passed the House Committee on Judiciary with 10 votes in favor of the bill. One member was excused this day.
  - House Floor Vote: Carried by Helt, Barker. Passed. Ayes, 58; Excused, 2 Evans, Sprenger.
  - President and Speaker signed on May 20th.
  - Governor signed on May 24th.

Coalition: Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, Oregon State Sheriff’s Association, Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Oregon Student Association

Challenges: Opposition to the bill characterized it as only addressing a “Bend problem.” OSA specifically advocated to prohibit stop and frisk, however, it was challenging turning out testimonies from students on the importance of removing their stop and frisk authority. Overall, more student involvement from campuses outside of Bend would have been helpful to build the narrative that it does not only happen in Bend.
**Recommendations:** In the future OSA can work with the Department of Justice to come up with policy recommendations on student safety such as requiring trauma informed training for campus safety officers.

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**HB 2015 - Driver's Licenses for All / Equal Access to Roads**

**Summary:** Eliminates requirement that person provide proof of legal presence before Department of Transportation issues non-commercial driver's license, noncommercial driver permits or identification card.

**Chief Sponsors:** Representative Hernandez, Alonso Leon, Senator Manning Jr, Representative McLain, Senator Roblan.

**Regular sponsors:** Representative Barker, Bynum, Clem, Doherty, Evans, Fahey, Gorsk, Greenlick, Helm, Holvey, Keny-Guyer, Kotek, Lively, Marsh, Meek, Mitchell, Nathanson, Neron, Nosse, Piluso, Power, Prusak, Rayfield, Reardon, Salinas, Sanchez, Schouten, Smith Warner, Sollman, Wilde, Williams, Williamson, Senator Beyer, Fagan, Frederick, Gelser, Wagner.

**Path to passage:**
- This bill was pre-session filed and first read February 27th.
- **House Hearing:** The bill was first heard April 17th. OSA turned out students from University of Oregon, Central Oregon Community College.
• **Work Session:** The bill successfully passed the House Committee on Transportation with 7 votes in favor, 4 opposed and 1 Excused.

• **Ways and Means Worksession:** The bill was assigned to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development. The bill successfully passed the committee with 14 votes in favor, 5 opposing, 2 excused.

• **House Floor Vote:** The bill was voted on June 18th. Carried by Hernandez and Alonso Leon. yes, 39; Nays, 21--Barreto, Boles, Bonham, Boshart Davis, Drazan, Findley, Hayden, Leif, Lewis, McLane, Nearman, Post, Reschke, Smith DB, Smith G, Sprenger, Stark, Wallan, Wilson, Witt, Zika.

• **Senate Floor Vote:** The bill was voted on June 29th. Carried by Manning Jr. Passed. Ayes, 17; Nays, 10--Baertschiger Jr, Bentz, Boles, Hansell, Heard, Johnson, Knopp, Olsen, Thatcher, Thomsen; Absent, 2--Girod, Linthicum; Excused, 1--Boquist

• **President and Speaker** signed on June 30th.

**Coalition:** This bill had a broad coalition. Some included: ACLU-Oregon, CAUSA, PCUN, AFL-CIO, AFSME, SEIU, OEA, PPAO, OBA and more.

**Challenges:** The coalition had difficulty in getting members of the Republican Caucus on board with this bill. This legislation was often tied to Measure 88, a ballot measure in 214 that would grant undocumented people and other communities who do not have a Social Security Number to be able to apply to obtain a driver’s card. The ballot measure failed. HB 2015 is different than Measure 88 because this grants driver’s licenses as opposed to driver’s cards. Additionally, Oregon’s population has changed since 214 and actually more people support having access to safe roads and granting the ability to drive to people who do not have access to a social security number.

**Recommendations:**
OSA can continue partnering with other immigrant organizations to help to identify and champion legislation that will benefit Oregon’s immigrant students.
SB 859 - Tuition Equity 4.0 for Graduate Students

Description: Exempts graduate students at public universities who qualify for tuition equity from having to pay nonresident tuition.

Chief Sponsors: Senator Dembrow, Representative Hernandez


Path to passage:
- This bill was introduced and first read on the Senate Chambers on February 26th.
- Senate Hearing: The bill was first heard on the Senate Committee on Education on March 20th. The OSA turned out 6 students from Oregon State University, Linn-Benton Community College, University of Oregon and Western Oregon University
- Senate Work Session held on April 3rd. The Senate Committee on Education passed the bill with 3 votes in favor with a ‘do pass’ recommendation and subsequent referral to Ways and Means be rescinded.
- Senate Floor Vote: Carried by Dembrow. Passed. Ayes, 23; Nays, 7—Baertschiger Jr, Girod, Knopp, Linthicum, Olsen, Thatcher, Thomsen.
- House Hearing: The bill was heard on the House Committee on Education on May 6th. The OSA turned out 1 student in person testimony and written testimonies from 4 students from Oregon State University, Western Oregon University and Linn-Benton Community College.
- House Work Session held on May 13th. The House Committee on Education passed the bill with 7 votes in favor with a ‘do pass’ recommendation.
- President and Speaker signed on June 3rd.
- Governor signed on June 7th.

Coalition: Our coalition includes OSCC members and alumni, and PCC DREAM Center members and alumni.

Challenges: There were no notable challenges with this legislation.
**Recommendations:** OSA can work to make Tuition Equity more accessible. One recommendation is to change the eligibility criteria. A few options that OSA can pursue: 1) reducing or eliminating the 5-year residency requirement. This will allow immigrants who have only been in the states for 3 years to be eligible. 2) reducing the high school requirement to 1-2 years, this will allow immigrants who get a GED or High School Diploma in 1-2 years to be eligible for tuition equity. 3) Both at the same time. To be able to create more access, OSA can work on reducing the residency years while reducing the high school requirements to allow migrant people, especially those who travel around the country for work purposes, to be eligible for tuition equity.

**SB 854 - Accessible Processional Licensing**

**Description:** Directs professional licensing boards, in certain circumstances, to accept individual taxpayer identification number or other federally issued identification number in lieu of Social Security number on applications for issuance or renewal of authorization to practice an occupation or profession.

**Chief Sponsors:** Senator Dembrow, Representative Hernandez

**Regular Sponsors:** Senator Manning Jr., Steiner Hayward, Representative Fahey, Piluso

**Path to passage:**
- This bill was introduced and first read on the Senate Chambers on February 26th.
- **Senate Hearing:** The bill was first heard on the Senate Committee on Business and General Government on April 4th. The OSA turned out 1 student from Western Oregon University and 1 Oregon Health & Science University alum.
• **Senate Work Session**: This bill passed the Senate Committee on Business and General Government with 3 votes in favor of the bill with a ‘do pass with amendments’ recommendation.
• **Referred to Rules by Order of the President**
• **Public Hearing and Work Session**: held on May 13th. This bill passed the Senate Committee on Rules with 3 votes in favor and a ‘do pass’ recommendation.
• **Senate Floor Vote**: Carried by Dembrow. Passed. Ayes, 20; Nays, 7—Baertschiger Jr, Bentz, Boquist, Girod, Hansell, Linthicum, Thomsen; Excused, 3—Knopp, Olsen, Winters.
• **House Hearing**: This bill had a public hearing on the House Committee on Rules. The OSA turned out 1 student from Western Oregon University and 1 testimony from an Oregon Health & Science University alum.
• **Work Session**: This bill passed the House Committee on Rules with 4 votes in favor with a ‘do pass’ recommendation.
• **House Floor Vote**: Carried by Hernandez. Passed. Ayes, 41; Nays, 17- Barreto, Boles, Bonham, Drazan, Findley, Hayden, Leif, Lewis, Nearman, Noble, Post, Reschke, Smith DB, Stark, Wallan, Wilson, Zika; Absent, 1-Sanchez; Excused, 1-Sprenger

**Challenges**: The bill took a while for it to move out of committee and was “stuck” in the House Committee on Rules.

**Recommendations**: OSA can work on legislation to get funding to so specific outreach to undocumented communities about career opportunities. Many undocumented students do not know that Tuition Equity exists or that there is state financial aid available for them to continue their education, and there are many undocumented Oregonian students who do not meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the current law and thus are unable to access the program. This is another barrier that was removed for undocumented families to be able to continue their professional development.
**SB 958 - Dreamers Access Program**

**Summary:** Establishes Dreamers Access Program to award student loans to eligible students with demonstrated financial aid.

**Chief Sponsors:** Senator Wagner, Representative Hernandez, Senator Dembrow, Representative Alonso Leon, Representative McClain.

**Regulars sponsors:** Representative Meek, Representative Sanchez, Senator Gelser and Senator Roblan

**Action taken:**
- **Senate Public Hearing:** This bill was heard on March 20th. OSA turned out 4 students to testify in favor of this bill.
- **Worksession:** The bill passed out of committee on April 8th with 4 votes in favor, 1 in opposition and had a referral to the Ways and Means committee.

**Outcome:** The bill did not pass because it needs more policy development in order to create a tangible infrastructure for the loan to operate and be successful.

**Coalition:** The coalition included the Office of Representative Hernandez, Office of Senator Wagner, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, university administration’s and more.

**Challenges:** In order to create this program, there needs to be more time dedicated to the policy development of this measure and strong coalition/movement to support it.

**Recommendations:** OSA should continue working on this piece of legislation partnering with Representative Hernandez’s office. If OSA wishes to continue working on this legislation, the legislative director and students should work on creating a coalition that will support his legislation and work with other coalition partners to ensure that this becomes one of their priority issues as well.

**HB 3181 - Tuition Freeze Bill**
**Summary:** Prohibits public universities from increasing the amount of tuition and mandatory fees charged to resident undergraduate and graduate students during 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic years.

**Chief Sponsors:** Representative Nosse, Representative Hernandez

**Regular sponsors:** Senator Fagan and Senator Boquist

**Coalition:** The main coalition for this bill was students from various campuses.

**Challenges:** Due to the divestment form the state, universities and community colleges are not ready to have a tuition freeze, unless the Oregon legislature allocates sufficient funding for higher education to avoid cuts on programs, faculty and staff.

**Recommendations:** If incoming board members are interested in working towards a tuition freeze in the future, the Oregon Student Association should build a coalition with other students, HECC, legislators and faculty/staff unions to come up with a strategy to fund higher education sufficiently to enable this.

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**HB 3338 - Disarm PSU and UO**

**Summary:** Prohibits police officers commissioned by public university from carrying firearms as police officers outside of police headquarters if public university is located in a city with a population exceeding 150,000.

**Chief Sponsors:** Representative Hernandez

**Regular sponsors:** Representative McClain, Representative Sanchez, Senator Fagan, Senator Taylor

**Coalition:** PSUSU, Faculty at PSU, PSU students, ASUO and the OSA students.

**Challenges:** There was a lack of support from legislators and not a deep show of support from students. If future OSA boards wish to pass this, it would be important to make sure students, faculty and staff from directly impacted campuses and statewide are supportive, as well as the surrounding communities and allies. This legislation was opposed by university administrations, university police unions and other groups.

**Recommendations:** If students wanted to address this issue again, OSA would need stronger unification and a broader coalition building effort in order for this policy to move forward.
The 2019 legislative session found OSA taking part in a historic coalition and increasing budgets from what legislators had recommended all in the midst of a very challenging political landscape for higher education. The Oregon Student Associations advocated for funding amounts that would help them achieve tuition freezes for the next biennium. The 2019 legislative session asks were:

- **$1 billion for the Public Universities Support Fund**

  OSA joined universities early this session to come up with the number. OSA agreed to join them as long as the funds were spent on student success.

- **$787 million for the Community College Support Fund**

  OSA joined the community colleges in their asks. This number includes 70M for student success services and 70M for CTE programs.

- **$252 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant**

  OSA joined the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on this ask which would fully fund the Oregon Opportunity Grant to be able to fund all Pell Grant eligible students in Oregon.

Below I will detail OSA’s budget advocacy process for this session by providing context on how the budget setting process works, listing our coalition partners, the strategy we put in place and the outcomes.
The state budget setting process has three major phases in a two-year cycle. The first phase is the Agency Request Budget, the second is the Governor’s Recommended Budget and the third one is the Legislative Adopted Budget.

**First Phase - Agency Request Budget:**
Agencies start the budget early in even-numbered years to develop their Agency Request Budget. This lays out agency finances and policies for consideration by the Governor. The Chief Financial Office (CFO) gives agencies guidelines to use in this process. Agencies send their budget request to the CFO by September 1.

During this time the Oregon Student Association works with university and community college administrations, and labor unions to identify a number to advocate for at the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to include in their request.

OSA testified at the May 10th, June 14th and August 1st Higher Education Coordinating Commission meetings to encourage them to advocate for our budgets asks in their agency request budget to the governor.

The Higher Coordinating Commission approved and submitted the following request:

- **Public University Support Fund** –
  Increase the PUSF to incentivize degree completion and keep average tuition increases below 5%.
  HECC Request: $923 Million

- **Community College Support Fund** –
  Increase the CCSF in order to cover the cost of federal and state mandates using state investment, not tuition, and support the expansion of strategies that are proven to increase student success, particularly for underrepresented students
  HECC Request: $783,138,249

**Second Phase- Governor's Recommended Budget**
The Governor and the CFO review the budget requests. They use the Governor’s priorities, budget policies, and current law to make budget decisions. The Governor’s Recommended Budget document summarizes those decisions. It gives data on all the state’s revenues and expenditures. It also gives information on each agency’s budget. The Department of Revenue puts together a Tax Expenditure Report that is published at the same time. The Tax Expenditure Report outlines the various reductions available to residents for the income tax. The Governor presents the Recommended Budget to the Legislature when it meets at the start of the next calendar year (for example, January of 2019, during the 2019-21 biennium).
In 2019 the Governor released two pieces: her base budget which detailed her recommendations on where the existing funding should be allocated, and an investment budget where she declared that she was interested in raising revenue and allocate the raised funds. For higher education the numbers did not reflect a true investment. In fact, the total number reflected for the PUSF and the CCSF were below the true current service levels.

The Governor’s Recommended Budget for 2019 was:

- **The Public University Support Fund:**
  - Governor’s recommended budget: $736.9 million.
  - Governor’s “investment” plan: addtl. $120 million
  - Total: $856.9 million

- **The Community College Support Fund:**
  - Governor’s recommended budget: $543 million.
  - Governor’s “investment” plan: addtl. $103.7 million
  - Total: $646.7 million

- **The Oregon Opportunity Grant:**
  - Governor’s recommended budget: $152 million
  - Governor’s “investment” plan: addtl. $121 million
  - Total: $242.5 million

**Third Phase-Legislatively Adopted Budget**

Once the Governor’s Recommended Budget is received, legislative committees review the proposed budget. They hold public hearings to request feedback from each agency and the public. Each budget bill has a Budget Report that presents the committee’s recommendations. The Legislature votes on each budget bill. The budget bills that are enacted into law make up the Legislatively Adopted Budget. Agencies carry out, or execute the budget over the two year budget period.

The Emergency Board can make some changes to the budget between legislative sessions. Special sessions may also be called to deal with budget issues. The Legislatively Adopted Budget, and the changes to it after the Emergency Board reviews it, make up the Legislatively Approved Budget.

During this phase, the Oregon Student Association attended hundreds of meetings during the legislative session. We partnered with universities, community colleges and labor unions to meet with legislators and the governor. We also attended meetings on our own and focused both of our lobby days on higher education funding advocacy. This piece of advocacy was
challenging because legislators had a difficult time reaching an agreement on funding amounts, they would allocate towards higher education.

OSA, universities and community colleges also advocated for an expansion of the Oregon Opportunity grant and CTE programs in the Student Success Act. OSA supported the raising revenue and wanted to see investments in post-secondary education so that Oregon could serve students cradle to career. Although higher education investments did not make it to the revenue package, higher education community made it known that legislators could not leave higher education behind during the session.

After many months and countless meetings and testimonies, the Ways and Means Sub Committee on Education released their budgets in early June, which the legislative body adopted. While the cochair recommendation was originally more along the lines of the Governor’s Recommended Budget, with universities at $736.9 million, community colleges at $543 million, and the Oregon Opportunity Grant at $152 million, advocacy from OSA, and the historic coalition of OSA, institutional government affairs teams, and labor organizations such as OEA and AAUP was able to secure increases to all funding areas sufficient to reduce tuition increases across the state and expand the O.O.G. to 2,500 additional recipients.

**2019 Legislative Adopted Budget:**
- Public University Support Fund: $836,898,583, this is an increase of $100 million from 2017-2019. + a budget
  - Budget Notes #1
    - Budget Note: Public University Financial Transparency The seven Public Universities shall collectively report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means in February 2020 on cost management measures implemented during the 2019-20 academic year. The report should include administration and program reductions, use of fund reserve balances, positions eliminated or left vacant for more than six months, and any new positions established. An updated report for the 2020-21 academic year shall be provided to the Emergency Board in December 2020. The seven Public Universities and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) are also directed to coordinate in the interim to identify public university financial data and measures that will be consistently provided to HECC to improve transparency and accountability. Financial information may include administrative costs, financial activity by fund, fund reserve balances, and results of audits. HECC shall report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means or the Emergency Board no later than September 2020 on this effort.
• Community College Support Fund: $640,926,933, this increased by $50,000,000 from 2017-2019

• Oregon Opportunity Grant: increased by $12,500,000, which will grant an additional 2,500 grants.

• Open Educational Resources: continued funding at $669,200. OERs received one-time funding 2017-19 and its funding is continued for this biennium.

The allocated funding amounts for higher education were less than what we need, but they were still great improvements on what they would have been without the work of students, and this is no small win. This session could have been benefited by increased and constant student participation in the building. The Oregon Student Association has a history of creating meaningful impact but the key to be able to create this impact is to be invested in the issues and build a strong base by empowering students. A lot of legislators are removed from the current reality of students in Oregon and they need to hear from students about the challenges they face everyday. This is why OSA board members and staff need to be present on campus, to be able to talk to students, learn their stories and offer opportunities to get involved thus helping with leadership development. Especially given a legislative deprioritization of higher education and a mistrust in Salem towards university administrations, the resounding message in the building that students across the state through the Oregon Student Association are a crucial aspect of higher education funding advocacy.

**Recommendations:** The Oregon Legislature needs to prioritize higher education funding and investments in the 2020 and 2021 sessions. This will be possible if higher education stakeholders make a strong student-centered coalition. Students (with the help of the Legislative Director) should start visioning early on what they want for the future legislative session in terms of funding. Students should also work on campus to identify strategies to engage as many students as possible on campus and during the legislative session. Looking towards the 2020 and 2021 sessions, we have an opportunity to advocate for a similar process for higher education to what the two-year process for k-12 funding was. Legislators are starting to listen more to the need for a long term solution for a higher ed funding source because students raised their voices loud and clear. Continued organized pressure from students in the next two years will yield huge opportunities in this area.

These recommendations were drafted by Perla Alvarez, the Legislative Director from her observations while working as LD for OSA.
2020 and 2021 Recommendations

Budget Advocacy Recommendations:
- Start a higher education table as soon as possible to figure out funding strategy for 2020 that will help with budget advocacy for 2021 to be able to achieve a tuition freeze.
- Advocate for an expansion of the Open Educational Resources.
- Advocate for full expansion of the Oregon Opportunity Grant.
- Work with legislators and stakeholders to find a long term, reliable revenue source to fund higher education.

Policy Recommendations:
- Continue developing the DREAMers Access Program with Representative Diego Hernandez and the workgroup.
- Alter the eligibility criteria for Tuition Equity to create more access. (See above for TE recommendation details).
- Work with the COFA community to pass the Tuition Equity for COFA students.
- Work with Representative Sanchez to re-introduce the free tuition bill for Native students.
Priority 2 Highlights

- Collaborate with legislators and the workgroup on textbook affordability to strengthen 2213.
- Review the Taskforce on Student Mental Health Report to introduce policies on mental health at colleges and universities.
- Re-introduce the HECC Voting Rights bill that would give voting power to students, faculty and staff and adds a graduate student to the HECC.
- Tuition setting advisory boards at Community Colleges.
- Reduce the tuition setting cap to 4%.
- Work with the Higher Education Coalition to come up with proposed legislation to address accountability measures for universities.

The following are a few successful pieces of legislation that OSA supported as priority 2 bills in the 2019 legislative session. OSA supported over 30 bills during the legislative session on topics such as raising revenue, youth sentencing reform, rent control and a seamless transfer process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Name</th>
<th>Bill Title</th>
<th>Bill Summary</th>
<th>Bill Sponsor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 2440/ HB3427</td>
<td>Relating to statewide education plans; declaring an emergency.</td>
<td>Directs Department of Education to develop and implement statewide education plan for students in early childhood through post-secondary education who are Latino or Hispanic and have experienced disproportionate educational results.</td>
<td>Rep Alonso Leon; Rep Doherty; Rep Greenlick; Rep Hernandez; Rep Piluso (Presession filed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Supporters</td>
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<td>HB 2625</td>
<td>Relating to missing Native American women; and declaring an emergency.</td>
<td>Directs Department of State Police to study how to increase and improve criminal justice resources relating to missing and murdered Native American women in Oregon and report to appropriate committee or interim committee of Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020.</td>
<td>Rep Alonso Leon; Rep Barker; Rep Bonham; Rep Boshart Davis; Rep Bynum; Rep Doherty; Rep Drazan; Rep Evans; Rep Fahey; Rep Findley; Rep Gomberg; Rep Gorsek; Rep Greenlick; Rep Hayden; Rep Helm; Rep Helt; Rep Hernandez; Rep Holvey; Rep Keny-Guyer; Rep Lewis; Rep Lively; Rep Marsh; Rep McKeown; Rep McLain; Rep Mitchell; Rep Nathanson; Rep Neron; Rep Piluso; Rep Power; Rep Prusak; Rep Reardon; Rep Salinas; Rep Sanchez; Rep Schouten; Rep Smith Warner; Rep Stark; Rep Wilde; Rep Williams; Rep Williamson; Rep Wilson; Rep Zika; Sen Bentz; Sen Dembrow; Sen Fagan; Sen Frederick; Sen Hansell; Sen Knopp; Sen Manning Jr; Sen Riley; Sen Roblan; Sen Taylor; Sen Wagner (Presession filed)</td>
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<td>HB 3310</td>
<td>Relating to voting rights for electors in protected classes; and prescribing an effective date.</td>
<td>Prohibits school district, community college district and certain education service district elections from being conducted in a manner that impairs the ability of members of protected classes to have equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice as a result of dilution or abridgment of the rights of electors who are members of protected class.</td>
<td>Rep Alonso Leon; Rep Bynum; Rep Clem; Rep Fahey; Rep Gomberg; Rep Helt; Rep Hernandez; Rep Keny-Guyer; Rep McLane; Rep Meek; Rep Neron; Rep Nosse; Rep Rayfield; Rep Reardon; Rep Sanchez; Rep Smith DB; Rep Smith Warner; Rep Wilde; Rep Williams; Rep Williamson; Rep Zika; Sen Dembrow; Sen Fagan; Sen Frederick; Sen Knopp; Sen Manning Jr; Sen Roblan; Sen Wagner</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 3415</td>
<td>Relating to policies adopted by post-secondary institutions of education.</td>
<td>Requires institutions of higher education to both adopt written policies and require certain individuals to participate in annual training on sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.</td>
<td>Rep Hayden; Rep Helt; Rep Keny-Guyer; Rep Power; Rep Smith DB; Rep Wilde; Rep Williams; Rep Williamson; Sen Manning Jr; Sen Wagner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<td>SB 726</td>
<td>Relating to unlawful conduct in the workplace; and prescribing an effective date.</td>
<td>Makes unlawful employment practice for employer to enter agreement that would prevent employee from disclosing or discussing conduct that constitutes unlawful discrimination, including sexual assault.</td>
<td>Rep Alonso Leon; Rep Boles; Rep Bynum; Rep Drazan; Rep Fahey; Rep Gorsek; Rep Hayden; Rep Helt; Rep Hernandez; Rep Holvey; Rep Keny-Guyer; Rep Marsh; Rep Meek; Rep Mitchell; Rep Power; Rep Prusak; Rep Reardon; Rep Salinas; Rep Smith Warner; Rep Wilde; Rep Williams; Rep Williamson; Sen Beyer; Sen Dembrow; Sen Fagan; Sen Frederick; Sen Gelser; Sen Golden; Sen Knopp; Sen Manning Jr; Sen Monnes Anderson; Sen Roblan; Sen Steiner Hayward; Sen Taylor; Sen Wagner</td>
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<td>SB 861</td>
<td>Relating to elections; and prescribing an effective date.</td>
<td>Requires state to pay for ballot return envelopes that can be returned by business reply mail, or other mailing service determined by the Secretary of State to be more cost effective or efficient, for each election held in this state.</td>
<td>Rep Barker; Rep Bynum; Rep Clem; Rep Doherty; Rep Drazan; Rep Evans; Rep Fahey; Rep Gorsek; Rep Greenlick; Rep Helm; Rep Hernandez; Rep Holvey; Rep Keny-Guyer; Rep Lively; Rep Marsh; Rep McLain; Rep Mitchell; Rep Neron; Rep Nosse; Rep Piluso; Rep Power; Rep Prusak; Rep Rayfield; Rep Salinas; Rep Sánchez; Rep Schouten; Rep Smith DB; Rep Smith Warner; Rep Sollman; Rep Wilde; Rep Williamson; Sen Beyer; Sen Burdick; Sen Dembrow; Sen Fagan; Sen Frederick; Sen Gelser; Sen Manning Jr; Sen Monnes Anderson; Sen Prozanski; Sen Roblan; Sen Taylor; Sen Wagner</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 1008</td>
<td>Relating to juvenile offender sentencing; prescribing an effective date; and providing for criminal sentence reduction that requires approval by a two-thirds majority.</td>
<td>Requires courts to include in judgment document age of defendant at the time of committing offense if defendant is sentenced to a term of incarceration and physical custody of defendant is related to age of defendant at the time of committing offense.</td>
<td>Judiciary (S)</td>
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</table>
**Remarks by Legislative Director**

The 2019 legislative session was a difficult landscape where OSA staff and students worked hard and set us up for even bigger wins in the future. It was historic for many communities. Having a strong united front when working on advocacy on behalf of Oregon students is key to be successful. Continue organizing in your campuses and building relationships with students. Get to know your students by listening to their stories. Learn how they got to college and what they do everyday to survive. You’ll find out that you’re not the only one struggling and/or being successful during this journey. The Oregon Student Association is very powerful and it creates changes. I know this and many people in Oregon politics know this. Let’s continue our legacy and continue fighting to improve the lives of Oregonians.
Special thank you to the students who were engaged throughout the legislative session, sharing their stories, attending meetings and keeping up with the important legislation debates. For those of you who were not able to make it, we got you. Your student representatives did a great job representing your interests.

Lastly, shout out to Lizbeht Marquez Gutierrez and Odalis Aguilar Aguilar who spent 6 months of their undergraduate career being part of the legislative team at the capitol and for contributing to this report.

Kevin Figueroa, Sophomore, Western Oregon University