

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Katie Fast

Executive Director of Government Relations



Oregon State
University

Federal COVID Relief Supplemental

- Total \$22B in relief for public/non-profit higher education institutions
- Estimated allocation to OSU: \$25.5M
 - Minimum requirement for student aid with OSU allocation: \$7.779M
 - Flexibility for use of funds for remainder of OSU allocation (\$17.8M), including expenses, student support programs, additional student aid
 - Maintenance of effort requirement for state to maintain proportional investment in higher education to overall spending over FY2017-2019
- Other COVID relief provisions of interest:
 - Funding to states/governors for additional education relief (\$4.05B total), testing support, vaccine distribution, child care support, broadband connectivity

Enacted Federal FY2021 Appropriations: Allocations of Interest to OSU

- **Education:** Max Pell Grant increase of \$150, and modest increases to all federal financial aid programs
- **NSF:** 2.5% increase in the total budget
- **USDA:**
 - Flat funding for statewide agriculture research (Hatch) and extension capacity (Smith-Lever), with a \$10M increase for competitive agriculture research (AFRI)
 - Directed funds for OSU/USDA research collaborations around the state, including new funds for hemp (\$2.5M), shellfish breeding (\$1.0M), rangeland livestock management (\$3.0M), soil health (\$1.5M), and wine grape smoke taint research (\$1.5M)

Enacted Federal FY2021 Appropriations: Allocations of Interest to OSU - Continued

- **Navy:** Directed funds to Navy for OSU research priorities, including marine robotics and marine energy R&D
- **NOAA:** Increased funds (4%) for oceanic and atmospheric research, strong support for Sea Grant, and directed funds to ensure continued capacity support for OSU/NMFS hydrographic observation line

Oregon Legislature

- January 11: Sworn in
- January 19: Session begins
- June 27: Constitutional Sine Die
- All committee hearings and votes will be conducted remotely
- The Legislature will start regularly convening in person in April
- Capitol will remain closed to the public until Marion County enters Moderate Risk Level

OSU Virtual Advocacy

- Meetings with legislators are taking place virtually
- Beaver Caucus held first virtual advocacy event on December 10
- OSU Extension is implementing an in-depth legislative outreach strategy
- OSU Day (May 6) & Statewides Day (March 24) scheduled virtually
- Additional targeted advocacy opportunities will be added

2021 Legislative Agenda

- \$900M Public University Support Fund
- \$80M Shared Capital Renewal Fund
- \$13.8M OSU-Cascades Student Success Center
- \$86M Cordley Hall – Phase II & III, Complete Building
- \$40M in XI-F Bonds for Reser Project
- Requesting 7.42% CSL for Statewide Public Service Programs & State Programs
- \$10M reestablished for the University Innovation Research Fund

2021 Legislative Agenda

- **Credit Transfer:** Policy concept led by the Statewide Provost's Council to develop a common course numbering system and establish a state Transfer Council
- **University Research Venture Fund Tax Credit:** Extend popular research tax credit sunset to 2028
- **Hemp:** Legislation to update the state hemp plan and establish a hemp commodity commission
- **Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia:** Carry-over legislation from 2019 and 2020 to fund research addressing ocean acidification and hypoxia

Questions?