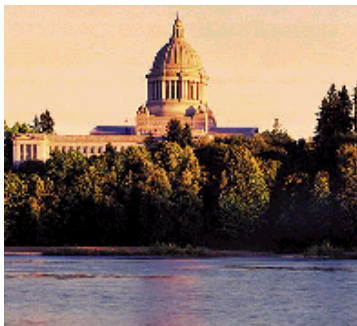


February 23, 2009

# EVERGREEN

The Evergreen State College



## Legislative Update

### Governor Signs Supplemental Budget Legislation; President of Evergreen Continues to Share Impact of Budget Reductions with Policymakers

#### 2009 Legislative Session Dates

- **January 12- Washington Legislature convenes**
- **February 25 - Policy Committee Cut Off for Bills from Original House**
- **March 2- Fiscal Committee Cut Off for Bills from Original House**
- **March 12- Bills in House of Origin Cut Off**
- **March 19— State Revenue Forecast Update**
- **March 30- Policy Committee Cut Off for Bills from Opposite House**
- **April 6- Fiscal Committee Cut Off for Bills from Opposite House**
- **April 17 - Bills in Opposite House of Origin Cut Off**
- **April 26- Legislative Session Ends**

On February 18, 2009 Governor Gregoire signed into law House Bill 1694 and Senate Bill 5460 which make permanent the budget reductions issued by the Governor in late 2008.

House Bill 1694 reduces state general funds by \$636 million for the 2007-2009 biennium. The bill reduces The Evergreen State College operating budget by \$1.328 million. This amount reflects the sum of the reductions Evergreen has taken in its operating budget as a result of the Governor's actions in recent months with regard to freezes placed on travel, hiring, equipment purchases, and contracts.

Senate Bill 5460 extends the freeze placed on out-of-state travel, hiring, equipment purchases, and contracts in late 2008 through the end of the fiscal year. The freeze on salary and wage increases is extended for one year from the enactment of the bill.

In addition, Senate Bill 5460 establishes a process for exceptions for each area prohibited in the bill. The Vice Presidents and Budget Coordinators are working to identify areas in which Evergreen will need to access the exception process.

As the Governor signed legislation impacting the current biennium, President Purce was focused on sharing the impact of proposed budget reductions for the next biennium with policymakers.

President Purce joined his colleagues from the regional and research universities before Senate Ways & Means and the House Education Appropriations Committee to share the substantial impact of the Governor's 2009-11 proposed budget reductions on The Evergreen State College and the potential impact of reductions beyond those proposed.

President Purce echoed the remarks he made before the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Committee the week before. Recognizing the deep immersion of the campus in budget discussions, President Purce left no doubt that the steps now being taken will leave their mark on the higher education system for many years to come.

According to President Purce, Evergreen has approached institutional budget conversations with a commitment to the integrated and interdisciplinary delivery of education unique to the college. Recognizing the strong likelihood that the budget will change, the uncertainty of the policy decisions that will be implemented by the Legislature (i.e. enrollment, tuition), and respect for the collective bargaining agreements and well-being of members of the Evergreen community, President Purce shared a conceptual impact of the proposed budget reductions with legislators assuring policymakers that conversations regarding the budget were continuing to take place.

President Purce stated that every aspect of The Evergreen State College will be impacted by the reductions proposed. Purce noted that the College has worked hard to protect instructional programs, but these too will be impacted because of the integrated delivery of the curriculum and the focus on theory to practice that is at the core of Evergreen's mission.

President Purce told policymakers that under the proposed reduction scenarios, cuts would impact student experiences, reduce public service programs, eliminate jobs, reduce enrollment, and increase tuition.

Within that context President Purce encouraged policymakers to invest in state financial aid programs, balance access and quality, and provide the institutions of higher education with the flexibility to make decisions regarding budget reductions that best meet the diverse missions of the universities and colleges in Washington.

To view President Purce's presentation before the Senate Ways & Means Committee go to: [http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009021181&TYPE=A&CFID=1213274&CF\\_TOKEN=16773505&bhpc=1](http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009021181&TYPE=A&CFID=1213274&CF_TOKEN=16773505&bhpc=1)

To view President Purce's presentation before the House Education Appropriations Committee go to: [http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009020156&TYPE=A&CFID=1213274&CF\\_TOKEN=16773505&bhpc=1](http://www.tvw.org/media/mediaplayer.cfm?evid=2009020156&TYPE=A&CFID=1213274&CF_TOKEN=16773505&bhpc=1)

# Highlights—At the Legislature Next Week

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## WEDNESDAY, February 25, 2009

### **8:00 AM - HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS—HHR A**

**Public Hearing:** HB 2021—Revitalizing student financial aid. HB 1328—Allowing public technical colleges to offer associate transfer degrees. HB 1312—Eliminating the exclusive authority of the UW and WSU to offer certain engineering courses. SHB 1025—Requiring disclosure of certain information relating to higher education course materials. SHB 1946—Regarding higher education online technology. SHB 2003—Changing PESB provisions. HB 2118—Convening an advisory committee on tuition policy. SHB 2227—Enacting the evergreen jobs act. HB 2261—Concerning the state’s education system.

### **1:30 PM - HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATION—HHR A**

**Public Hearing:** Bills referred to committee

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee

### **1:30 PM - SENATE WAYS & MEANS—SHR 4**

**Public Hearing:** Bills referred to committee

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee

### **3:30 PM - SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT—SHR 3**

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee

## THURSDAY, February 26, 2009

### **8:00 AM - HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATION—HHR A**

**Public Hearing:** Bills referred to committee

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee

### **1:30 PM - SENATE WAYS & MEANS—SHR 4**

**Public Hearing:** Bills referred to committee

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee

### **3:30 PM - SENATE WAYS & MEANS—SHR 4**

**Public Hearing:** Bills referred to committee

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee

## FRIDAY, February 27, 2009

### **1:30 PM - HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET—HHR C**

**Public Hearing:** Bills referred to committee

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee

### **1:30 PM - HOUSE WAYS & MEANS—HHR A**

**Public Hearing:** Bills referred to committee

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee

### **1:30 PM - SENATE WAYS & MEANS—SHR 4**

**Public Hearing:** Bills referred to committee

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee

To view the complete legislative schedule for the week of February 2, 2009 go to: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/calendar/>

## *Legislative Update*

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## **Evergreen Focuses on Alumni, Student, and Faculty Experience to Raise Visibility on Higher Education Day**

On February 17, Evergreen alumni, students, and faculty joined other representatives from Washington's public, four-year institutions to raise the value and visibility of public, baccalaureate education in Washington.

Greeners began the day with an institutional briefing hosted by President Purce, the Vice Presidents, and the Director of Government Relations to discuss the current legislative context and the latest happenings at The Capitol.

The morning briefing was followed by musical entertainment from Washington's universities during the lunch hour and various displays highlighting programs and opportunities offered by the institutions. Representatives from Evergreen's Masters in Teaching and Masters in Education program, Office of Sustainability, and the Washington Center supported displays that focused on Evergreen's commitment to teacher preparation and sustainability and engaged policymakers, staff, and interns.

In the afternoon, Evergreen alumni, students, and faculty met with legislators in person to share their experience at Evergreen and provide a face to the work and education that the college provides to Washingtonians from across the state.

The day closed with a press conference that recognized the lifelong commitment of former Representative Helen Sommers to higher education in Washington. This was followed by a reception hosted by the institutions to engage policymakers further on the issues facing four-year institutions.



“Speedy” Greets Legislative Staff on The Hill