

All Staff Email Sent February 09, 2009

Colleagues,

Last week Governor Kulongoski signed a state economic stimulus bill into law. Included in the bill was \$52 million for all community colleges. Lane will receive \$8 million. The funds can only be used for approved deferred maintenance projects. While it will not relieve our general fund budget in the short run, it will surely help repair a number of areas that require it and create energy efficiencies that should save us operating dollars in the long run. The sole purpose of the stimulus package was to create jobs and we will be hiring people to work on the projects as well as contract with local companies where necessary.

On the federal level the news is not so good. The House passed a stimulus bill last week. It included funds for deferred maintenance for higher education and to increase Pell grants for students. Perhaps more importantly, it provided stabilization funds for the states to backfill some of the cuts that are proposed. Unfortunately the Senate brokered a deal that keeps the Pell grant but eliminates the deferred maintenance funds and slashes, by some \$40 billion, the backfill for states. The Governor, the Legislature and we were counting on those funds to help improve our appropriation from the state in light of ever declining state revenues. Once the Senate passes the bill it will go to Conference committee where the House and Senate will try to work out their differences. I am in DC now at the community college legislative meeting so, together with trustees and presidents from all over the country, I will be on the Hill tomorrow and Wednesday to lobby for funds for education.

I will keep you posted as things progress. Also, look for further updates on our budget development over the next few days.

Thanks. Mary.