

**C OCC Board of Directors
Advocacy Committee
Meeting Agenda
March 20, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Remotely via Zoom**

Committee Members: Erin Foote Morgan (Chair), Erica Skatvold, Erin Merz

C OCC Staff: Greg Pereira (President), Lucas Alberg (Director of Marketing and Public Relations), Kyle Matthews (Executive Assistant to the President)

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of February 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes – Items 2.1-4**
- 3. OCCA Updates on Priority Bills in the 2026 Oregon Legislative Session – Items 3.1-3**
- 4. Elected Leaders Outreach Update**
- 5. Timeline Review**
 - a. Internal**
 - i. Fall**
 1. Approve advocacy/outreach plan
 2. Elected leader outreach
 3. ASCOCC updates
 - ii. Winter**
 1. Legislative Session (every year)
 2. ACCT National Legislative Summit
 3. ASCOCC updates
 - iii. Spring**
 1. Legislative Session (odd years)
 2. Evaluation performance
 3. ASCOCC updates
 - b. External**
 - i. September – March: Legislative Activities**
 - 1. March 9:** Legislative session ends
 - ii. October – March: Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) Schedule**
 1. To be determined
- 6. Next meeting:** To be determined
- 7. Adjourn**

**COCC Board of Directors
Advocacy Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Remotely via Zoom**

Committee Members: Erin Foote Morgan (Chair), Erica Skatvold, Erin Merz

COCC Staff: Greg Pereira (President), Lucas Alberg (Director of Marketing and Public Relations), Kyle Matthews (Executive Assistant to the President)

- 1. Call to Order at 11:04 a.m.**
- 2. Approval of January 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes** – Items 2.1-5
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes.
 - i. 1st: Erin Merz
 - ii. 2nd: Erica Skatvold
 - iii. In favor: Erin Foote Morgan, Erica Skatvold, Erin Merz
 - iv. Opposed or abstained: none
- 3. Update on College Funding Petition to Oregon Legislators**
 - a. Alberg said that the petition was well received by the Central Oregon community, the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) and the OCCA’s College Advocacy Coordinators. There were about 1,100 signatures in total from COCC students, staff, faculty and community members.
 - b. Foote Morgan said she received positive feedback from OCCA members at the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Legislative Summit. Foote Morgan also suggested that COCC could consider using petitions in the future.
 - c. Merz asked about responses from legislators.
 - i. Matthews said he forwarded two responses from legislators to the Committee. A third legislator also responded, but Matthews did not forward it as it was very brief.
 - ii. Alberg has received no additional responses.
- 4. OCCA Updates on Priority Bills in the 2026 Oregon Legislative Session** – Items 4.1-3
 - a. SB 1537, which would require community college boards to include a non-voting student member, is scheduled for a public hearing on February 23 and a work session will take place after.
 - b. Pereira said that one priority bill that was not included in this meeting’s packet is SB 1538. Sen. Anthony Broadman has added an amendment that would allow community colleges to revert back to their name prior to 1970. There have been disagreements among the Oregon Presidents Council members about whether this amendment is necessary. Pereira will be sharing further information with

the full Board at a future meeting. He noted that there has been a trend in several other states to no longer require community colleges to use the word “community” in their names. However, if this amendment passes, no action is required from COCC.

- i. Foote Morgan suggested that the Committee should support this amendment. Pereira concurred.
- ii. Skatvold added that COCC will soon be offering a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing, which could support a rebranding for the College.
- iii. Merz asked if leadership from OSU-Cascades has any thoughts on COCC changing its name.
 1. Pereira said they would not oppose it as long as the College does not use the word “Cascades” in its new name.
- iv. Foote Morgan noted that there is a work session scheduled for this amendment, which could be a good time to ask for clarification on the date proposed.
 1. Pereira suggested he should advise the OCCA’s Executive Director first.
- v. Foote Morgan asked if this should be discussed with COCC’s Board.
 1. Pereira said that he would inform the Board and ask for their support before discussing it with any other COCC personnel or community members.

5. Elected Leaders Outreach Update

- a. Alberg attended Career and Technical Education (CTE) Day in Salem on February 17, along with one instructor and one student from COCC’s Culinary program. COCC was one of 11 community colleges in attendance. They served coffee and scones in the morning and cookies in the afternoon, which made COCC’s table the most popular. The event did not receive as many visitors as expected; mostly building staff and students on field trips. They spoke with two or three legislative aides, but no legislators. The event was mentioned on the House floor. Alberg suggested that the legislators may have been too busy with the legislative session to visit the event. He also suggested that future events could include a full agenda of scheduled meetings with legislators.
 - i. Foote Morgan suggested that students could attend meetings with legislators and present flyers or samples of their work.
- b. Pereira met with Rep. Janelle Bynum’s local representative on February 10. They will be submitting a Congressional appropriations request, both to the House and the Senate, for \$1.2-1.8 million for deferred maintenance.
- c. Pereira and Laura Craska Cooper had a Zoom meeting scheduled with Sen. Mike McLane on February 9, but the Senator had to cancel at the last minute and asked to postpone until after the legislative session has concluded.

- d. Pereira has a meeting scheduled with the Mayor of Prineville on March 3. He has already met with the mayors of other cities where COCC's campuses are located.
- e. Matthews is still waiting to hear back from the offices of Sen. Diane Linthicum and Sen. Todd Nash. Rep. Greg Smith's staff said he would like to visit the Madras campus after the legislative session concludes.
 - i. Foote Morgan offered to follow up with Linthicum's office.

6. 2026 ACCT National Legislative Summit Recap – Items 5.1-22

- a. Foote Morgan said about 20 people from Oregon's community colleges attended the Summit in Washington, D.C., including board members, presidents, students and advancement directors. About 1,800 people in total attended the Summit, which consisted of a conference and meetings with legislators.
- b. Attendees strategized talking points for each meeting. Foote Morgan spoke about Pell grants and how the passing of HR 1 allows for low-income students to apply for grants to pay their tuition for non-credit, workforce development programs. On July 1, the Department of Labor will start accepting applications from community colleges who want to designate their workforce development programs as Pell grant eligible. There are concerns that Pell grant applications could dramatically increase and the Pell grant fund could deplete faster than expected. Community college students are also the only people who pay taxes for their Pell grants and they do not receive a student tax credit. Other speakers focused on funding needs that community colleges face through Title III and Title V, the Agricultural Advancement Act, adults' basic needs, and concerns regarding the transition of oversight of Pell grants from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor.
- c. The Oregon delegation received support from all of the Democrats from their state, as well as Republican Rep. Cliff Bentz, who is supportive of community college education and workforce development, and whose wife is on the Treasure Valley Community College Board of Education. Bentz had a lot of questions regarding Pell grants for workforce education.

7. Timeline Review

a. Internal

i. Fall

1. Approve advocacy/outreach plan
2. Elected leader outreach
3. ASCOCC updates

ii. Winter

1. Legislative Session (every year)
2. ACCT National Legislative Summit
3. ASCOCC updates

iii. Spring

1. Legislative Session (odd years)

2. Evaluation performance
3. ASCOCC updates

b. External

i. September – March: Legislative Activities

1. **March 9:** Legislative session ends

**ii. October – March: Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)
Schedule**

1. To be determined

8. **Next meeting:** Friday, March 20 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. via Zoom
9. **Adjourned at 12:01 p.m.**

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – WEEKLY CALL AGENDA



Date: March 3, 2026 | **Time:** 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | **Location:** <https://bluecc.zoom.us/j/92046169250>

3.1

Attendees: OCCA, HECC, Blue Mountain, Central, Chemeketa, Clackamas, Linn-Benton, Mt. Hood, Oregon Coast, Portland, Southwestern Oregon, Tillamook Bay, Treasure Valley

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter(s)	Meeting Materials
4:00 PM	Convene and Rollcall	Abby Lee, Laura Crook	
Abby Lee welcomed the group. Laura Crook took college roll call.			
4:00 PM	Advocacy Update	Casey White-Zollman	
Casey White-Zollman provided the advocacy update. The latest 1-click campaign encouraging the legislature to hold the CCSF harmless from cuts was a major success. 345 emails were sent to 68 legislators, and a record 141 posts were made on X (Twitter). Casey extended her thanks to everyone who participated.			
4:05 PM	Session Update	John Wykoff	
<p>John Wykoff provided the session update. The session is quickly approaching the end, and all major amendments dropped on Sunday. The Community College Governance Bill (SB 1537) went to the House floor, but was referred back to the House Education Committee. Wykoff anticipated the bill was sent back to committee because there were not enough votes to pass the bill in the house. The House Education Committee has shut down for the session, so the Governance Bill will not pass. Senator Fredrick has indicated he will bring the bill back in the 2027 session, however Wykoff anticipates future trajectory may be a challenge.</p> <p>The budget and reconciliation bill does not include any cuts to the Community College Support Fund, Oregon Promise, or the Oregon Opportunity Grants. There were minor cuts to the HECC budget and to K-12 budgets, but there were no major cuts to education support funds. Wykoff cautioned the group that Medicaid and SNAP cuts in HB 1 will take effect during the next biennium, so legislators anticipate a challenging budget session. The budget and reconciliation bill appropriated \$500,000 for Southern Oregon University. The accompanying budget note requires additional fiscal monitoring by the HECC to guide SOU.</p>			
4:10 PM	Bill Update	John Wykoff	Report: Alive Bills 3.2.26 (Attached)
	Bill Number	Priority	Bill Description
	SB 1537	1	Requires the members of a board of education of a community college district to have an official electronic mail address that is posted on a publicly accessible website.
This bill was sent back to the House Education Committee. The committee has closed for the session, so this bill will not move forward.			

	HB 4124	2	Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct a study of the condition of Oregon's post-secondary education system and to develop detailed recommendations for the design, implementation and operation of a viable and superior institutional framework.		
This bill is moving forward with an amendment that highlights the unique nature of community college special districts. This amendment was requested by OCCA.					
4:10 PM	Upcoming Bill Hearings		John Wykoff		Report: Bill Hearings 3.2.26 (Attached)
	Date/Time	Location	Bill Number	Priority	Bill Description
	3/2 @ 8:00am	HRC	HB 4161	3	Provides exceptions to the prohibited use by a public official of official position or office to obtain financial gain or avoid financial detriment that permit a public body to give public officials food, beverages and merchandise.
This bill is on track to pass.					
	3/2 @ 8:00am	HR D	SCR 206	2	In memoriam: State Senator Aaron Lionel Woods, 1949-2025.
This resolution is on track to pass.					
	3/2 @ 11:30am <i>3rd Reading</i>	Senate	HB 4079	2	Directs school district boards and governing bodies of institutions of higher education to adopt policies that address how the school district or the institution of higher education will respond when a federal immigration authority enters school property or a campus.
This bill is on track to pass with amendments suggested by OCCA and other stakeholders.					
	3/2 @ 3:00pm	HR 40	HB 4177	3	Restates the serial communications prohibitions for public meetings law purposes.
This bill is on track to pass.					
	3/3 @ 9:00am <i>Cap. Construction</i>	HR F	HB 5204	3	Modifies certain biennial appropriations made from the General Fund to specified state agencies and the Emergency Board.
	3/3 @ 3:00pm <i>Joint W & M</i>	HR 40			
This is the primary budget reconciliation bill. It is on track to pass without any cuts to the CCSF, Oregon Promise, or Oregon Opportunity Grant. A related budget note outlines additional fiscal monitoring by the HECC for the funds appropriated for Southern Oregon University.					
	3/3 @ 9:00am <i>Cap. Construction</i>	HR F	SB 5701 -1	2	Modifies previously approved lottery bonding provisions.
	3/3 @ 3:00pm <i>Joint W & M</i>	HR 40			
This bill is on track to pass with a -1 amendment correcting the amount and project name for the Southwestern Oregon CC					

	capital construction project. The -1 amendment also includes an updated title for Portland CC's capital construction project.				
	3/3 @ 9:00am <i>Cap. Construction</i>	HRE	SB 5702 -1	2	Establishes and modifies limits on payment of expenses from specified funds by certain state agencies for capital construction.
	3/3 @ 3:00pm <i>Joint W & M</i>	HR 40			
	This bill is on track to pass with a -1 amendment increasing the maximum amount for payment of community college capital construction bonds. This is to account for the corrected Southwestern Oregon CC project information in SB 5701 -1 .				
4:15 PM	Good of the Order		All		
	Final report will be released as soon as the session ends. The short session end of session report also includes the implementation report, since the short session has fewer bills.				
4:15 PM	Adjourn		Abby Lee		
	Abby Lee adjourned the meeting at 4:15pm.				