

AOF Board Minutes

June 5, 2005

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM. Present were President Rick Troxl (UO), Vice-President Bob Becker, Secretary-Treasurer Kemble Yates (SOU), Jim Etchison (OIT), Chuck Johnson (PSU), Greg Monahan (EOU), and Marie Vitulli (UO). Also present: Mark Nelson, Bill Linden, and Danelle Romain.

Minutes from the April meeting will be distributed at our June meeting.

Campus reports--

UO: Grumbling getting louder regarding salaries. Diversity “draft” released and then Vice Provost(!) of Diversity then left. Raises based on a “2+2 COLA” have been announced. Resentment growing toward athletics.

OSU: Baseball team’s climb toward the College World Series the buzz in Corvallis. A big Foundation capital campaign is underway. There’s a lot of new construction going on on campus.

EOU: Union contract settlement still awaiting final OUS Board ratification.

OIT: Faculty/administration committee’s comprehensive salary plan is still being worked through.

PSU: Basically quiet. Union negotiations are on hold until summer.

SOU: Two hate crimes toward gay/lesbian students have disturbed the campus community. President has responded with several campus communications, a press conference, and the formation of a committee to assess the overall campus climate. Kemble has assumed the Faculty Senate Chair position. Preliminary work on updating SOU’s Sexual Harassment and Consensual Relationship Policies has begun. Collective bargaining to begin in earnest this summer.

May Treasurer’s Report

Our cash balance rose from \$5435.26 to \$6491.72, but our long term budget deficit is still high at \$67,085.03.

Legislative Update—

PERS bills puttering through process. Break-in-service looks to be resolved. OUS employees have had their PERS account reports delayed.

May revenue forecast is \$218 million higher. First \$40 million of this closes the revenue gap on the \$12.93 billion spending plan/cap. A lot of jockeying still going on between House and Senate on K-12 budget – Senate and OEA want \$5.33 billion while House holding out for a lower figure. OUS budget will be

done next week (June 10-14). A 3.5% tuition increase looks likely. Opportunity Grants will be funded, but at a lower level than the Governor asked for. Enrollment growth will drive everything. Mark predicts that “vacancy savings” will be targeted toward faculty salaries. There was consensus that AOF would like these monies to be prioritized toward bringing ALL system faculty salaries up to comparator medians.

There is \$130 million in the budget to fund the “2+2 COLA” for all state employees. OUS is about 22% of all state employees.

AFSCME has settled their contract negotiations. They got 2+2, a new step, health fully paid first year, and second year covers a pretty large increase.

The employer rate for PERS contributions this year has been announced as 18.99%.

PERS Litigation Update—

No big news here.

Membership update –

Over the last two years, we’ve grown from 739 to 795. We continue to steadily lose members from retirement. Growth in membership is the key to gaining political strength and overcoming our long term negative financial position. We need to make better use of e-mail, and update our webpage. Mark and Bill offered to attend campus Senate and/or Union board meetings after the Legislature adjourns.

Tuition remission issues

AOF supports some improvements to this plan, e.g. survivor benefits, increasing the number of credit hours, and allowing more than one person to be using the benefit at once. Chancellor Pernsteiner seems to be supportive here.

Miscellaney

PEBB rates should be set by July 1. The status of “6% pick-ups” is that public employee unions will likely force them to remain in the coming years. The issue of anonymous versus signed employee/administrator evaluations was briefly discussed.

Future Meetings

July 9

September 17

October 15

November 12

The Board adjourned at 11:50 AM.