

AOF Board Minutes

April 26, 2007

Present were Vice-President Bob Becker (OSU), Secretary-Treasurer Kemble Yates (SOU), Tim Thompson (OIT), Sherry Yang (OIT), Marie Vitulli (UO), and Steve Gibbons (WOU). Also present: Mark Nelson, Karen Mainzer, and Erica Hetfield. Other guests included Greg Pleva, Dan DeNeui, Victor Hsu

Vice-President Bob Becker called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

We heard a presentation from a lobbyist for textbook publishers on a bill they favor (SB 365 and amendments).

The minutes of our March 10 meeting were approved.

The recent solicitation for membership has resulted in some new memberships – Mark will get us a more complete report for our next meeting. OIT's contact address needs to be changed from Jim Etchison's to Tim Thompson's.

We agreed to appoint Greg Monahan, Marie Vitulli, and Kemble Yates to work with Mark Nelson to put together a budget for 2007-08.

Campus reports—

OSU (BB)

- A Dean search has been stopped due to budget concerns.
- There have been significant faculty defections and difficulties in hiring.

UO (MV)

- UO is doing a search for a Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences
- A new Provost has been hired.
- Marie is on the Senate budget committee, but it has done very little.
- UO AD Bill Moos has stepped down, replacement is a “volunteer” and friend of Phil Knight.
- There has been a great series of articles in the Register-Guard, and Marie will continue to send them to us.

OIT (TT & SY)

- President Dow has serious breast cancer and is convalescing.
- Strategic planning reports now being shared at a “congress”.
- Their accreditation visit was largely successful, with “student learning outcomes” being the one possible weak point.
- The new compensation plan is now being implemented.
- Faculty were told that a charter high school was going to be started on campus; controversial.

WOU (SG)

- Provost resigned and is taking a position in Pennsylvania.
- The union has begun bargaining on non-money issues.
- Accreditation visit just happened.

SOU (KY)

- Budget plan has been finalized. 25 faculty positions and at least that many support positions were cut or are being phased out. Only one tenure-track line with a person in it is being cut.
- SOU is collapsing 3 Schools into one College of Arts & Sciences (3 Deans into 2).
- The Provost is leaving for the presidency of St. Cloud State.

Executive Director Report (Mark Nelson) --

The Co-chairs “lite” proposal has dominated the OUS legislative agenda, a severe cutback from the Governor’s Recommended Budget. Basically, the co-chairs raided everyone else’s budget and plopped this amount added into K-12.

The corporate minimum, if raised, would be dedicated to higher ed (OUS and CC’s) plus Head Start. The Dems may refer this to voters as a Constitutional Amendment. \$111 Million is the latest amount being projected as the increase from this.

Today, the tobacco tax increase went down today. A beer tax for troopers is also being contemplated.

The guess is right now that the new general fund forecast will be flat, but the lottery forecast could be up \$40 - \$60 million. There’s also a projection that the ending balance for this biennium will be about \$140 million.

OUS Budget Hearings held today. Mark and Kemble testified.

We briefly discussed bills of interest. The additional faculty member on the board bill passed the House overwhelmingly, and moves on to the Senate.

HB 3183 concerning ORP and 403b... which Kemble didn’t understand.

Corporate kicker conversion to a “Rainy Day Fund” has passed.

Marie suggested that at least one AOF board member ought to have privileges to post on our web site. Mark said he’d ask the PAC office to give Marie those privileges.

The PERS coalition is sensing that we may have “overfilled” and that we may need to be cutting back in some of our efforts.

Marie reported on two OUS committees related to ORP and 403b. The Advisory Committee reports that Fidelity, TIAA-CREF, and one other insurance company. VALIC was chosen to be “sunsetting” because they wouldn’t budge on their 1% mortality fund. The other committee is busy now selecting the “best in class” funds.

Future meetings: May 12 (annual meeting), June 9.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM