

AOF Board Minutes

May 12, 2007

Present were Vice-President Bob Becker (OSU), Secretary-Treasurer Kemble Yates (SOU), Tim Thompson (OIT), Jacqueline Arante (PSU), Marie Vitulli (UO), and Steve Gibbons (WOU). Also present: Mark Nelson, Karen Mainzer, and Erica Hetfield. Special guest: Rick Troxel (UO).

Vice-President Bob Becker called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

The minutes of our April 26 meeting were approved as amended.

We briefly discussed our annual financial picture, and we are down about \$15,000 more from last year. Mark shared a draft memo which has the intent of releasing our board members from personal financial responsibility for the AOF's debt. The Board also expressed an interest in seeing our Bylaws.

Campus reports—

OSU (BB)

- President's goal: OSU should be a top ten land grant institution and a top 25 engineering university.
- Major restructuring (of the colleges and schools) going on.
- Capital campaign going strong.

UO (MV & RT)

- UO for a Dean for the College of Arts & Sciences has failed.
- Romance Languages has been undergoing controversial budget problems, including letting faculty go (eight) and student protests.
- Education School conflict of interest scandal. One faculty member got hundreds of thousands of dollars in consulting fees from a publisher.
- Ed. – Tech. funds charged to students (\$50/term) & students not happy with how funds being spent. Symptomatic of “fee-ding frenzy”. For instance, there is a \$50 fee charged for changing their majors. Recent change to the oversight committee took student representation off of the Ed. – Tech. committee.

PSU (JA)

- Now gets only 31% of funding from state.
- President Bernstine is taking another job, and a search for his successor has begun.
- New A.D. hired. Deficit did go down this year.
- 600 faculty have signed a petition for Legislature on funding, Lincoln Bldg., and faculty compensation.
- Collective bargaining has begun.
- 72% of SCH now taught by part-time instructors.
- Two colleges are fighting over Film Studies classes and programs.

OIT (TT)

- President Dow has serious breast cancer and is convalescing; there is a bit of a leadership question mark.
- Provost being evaluated by three committees.
- A lot of work is being put into their distance education program.

- Faculty have killed the proposed charter high school that was going to be started on campus.

WOU (SG)

- Provost search has begun & Steve has been put on the Search Committee.
- The union continues bargaining on non-money issues. Administration will soon be bringing “Supposals” to the negotiations. On the faculty side, load issues are huge – especially in the sciences.

SOU (KY)

- SOU is collapsing 3 Schools into one College of Arts & Sciences (3 Deans into 2). This was originally touted as saving \$200,000 ... the rumor is that the savings will actually be a lot less. Our reserves are now projected at 2.3% to end of the year.
- The Provost is leaving for the presidency of St. Cloud State. His last day is rumored to be May 31.
- The union and the Provost are sparring over what will be considered “status quo” in our contract should we not settle by August 31.
- The union and the administration will be meeting soon to discuss issues over the implementation of the budget cuts and the lack of conversion of part-time faculty to Professional Track faculty.

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 into K-12. There is a lot of push back now by the various Ways & Means subcommittees on this plan.

The notion of an increase to the corporate minimum tax is still being discussed by the Legislature. Mark thinks there MIGHT be enough votes to support this IF it is well-articulated where and how the increased funds would go.

Major budgets are now moving through the Legislature (Corrections, Indigent Defense). Revenue forecast coming Tuesday -- guess is right now that the new general fund forecast will be flat, but the lottery forecast could be up \$40 - \$60 million.

Higher ed caucus press conference on May 3 went very well. We’ll try to get some of the docs up on our web site.

Mark predicts that the Legislature will be done – hell or high water – by June 30. That means we have about 45 days to substantively affect higher ed.’s funding. Since all bills needed to leave committee by April 30, many bills have now died. Mark predicts a beer tax and a pared down tobacco tax will eventually pass.

Governor has been passively supportive of OUS. The exception is SB 334 funding the Shared Responsibility Opportunity Grant.

Other bills were discussed. The AFT-sponsored HB 2578 (mandating a fixed percentage of part-time faculty) has died in the Education Committee. HB 2579 (which adds a faculty member to the OUS Board) has now passed both houses of

the Legislature. It awaits the Governor's pen... but will he sign? The bill to safeguard faculty from losing their PERS tier with a break-in-service (HB 2623) is moving along in Ways & Means. The textbook price/package reporting bill (SB 365) has been passed by the Senate. SB 396 (Drug Testing for all education employees) has failed.

PERS litigation... not much has changed, but City of Eugene has paid its attorney fee contribution, and we (AOF) will be getting about \$620 from this. The coalition knows it needs to take a serious look at its chances in all pending litigation. AOF also needs to assess the cost/benefits of staying in the coalition. Mark will be bringing us back a "handicapped report" on various PERS cases.

We then moved to our annual meeting. [See below]

We resumed at 12:12.

We then formally acknowledged Rick Troxel's many years of service with some gifts and kind words.

Future meetings: June 9.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM

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Annual Meeting: Called to order 11:36

Kemble discussed the proposed budget for 2007-08. Mark, on behalf of Public Affairs Council, has graciously offered to lower the annual management fees from \$70,795 to \$64,333. We'd need about 55 net new members for the revenue part of this budget to work. We initially proposed no increase in dues, but that is of course an option. Jacqueline suggested we might have a variable dues structure based on compensation level. We discussed various ways of having institutional memberships and institutional contributions.

The proposed budget was passed.

We discussed officers for next year. Rick Troxel and Bob Becker are stepping down. The following slate for 07-08 was approved by acclamation: Marie Vitulli = President, Steve Gibbons = Vice President, Kemble Yates = Secretary-Treasurer.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM, and regular meeting resumed.