

**Association of Oregon Faculties
June 9, 2007 Executive Board Meeting
Minutes**

In attendance: Greg Monahan, EOU; Steve Gibbons, WOU; Marie Vitulli, UO; Bob Becker, OSU; Tim Thompson, OIT; Mark Nelson, Kemble Yates (via phone), SOU; Mark Nelson, Karen Mainzer, and Erica Hagedorn, Public Affairs Counsel.

- I. Marie called the meeting to order.**
- II. The minutes were approved as amended.**
- III. Financial reports were reviewed**
- IV. Reports of Officers and Campus Representatives:**
 - a. Marie reported that UO has an ad hoc committee looking at how the dollars are distributed on campus and reporting to the Interfaculty Senate Budget Committee. Currently, the provost retains 20% of funds allocated to the various colleges and schools on campus. Programs have been notified that they will need to be self-sufficient unless a formal decision is made to subsidize. Details are still in flux. UO is working to fill the position of Vice President of Student Affairs.
 - b. Steve reported that WOU is still searching for a new provost. Bargaining is going well both on fiscal and non-fiscal issues.
 - c. Greg reported that EOU is facing a serious enrollment crisis with application down 20%. EOU continues to suffer from a lack of leadership and recently changed its governance model from a University Assembly to a Faculty Senate and University Council. EOU is currently negotiating its contract.
 - d. Kemble reported that SOU just began the bargaining process. SOU is losing its provost with a temporary provost filling in for a year while they conduct a search. The bargaining unit conducted a poll to determine the top issues to faculty (increase salary such as step system, fully paid health benefits topped the list). In response to the question of increasing union dues by the AOF membership costs to make all faculty AOF members received 38 “yes” votes to 26 “no” votes.
 - e. Bob reported that the OSU Dean of the College of Liberal Arts is retiring. The Provost stopped the search and appointed an interim Dean who is popular with the faculty. The Provost is also looking at reorganizing. The capital campaign appears to be on tract with a goal of \$600 million. Overall, morale is up at OSU.

- f. Tim reported that OIT is budgeting for a 1% decrease in enrollment. An administration report indicates that current leadership at OIT needs to decentralize and improve communication. OIT's Admission Director resigned and its summer school is declining.

V. Legislative Report presented by Mark Nelson

- a. Mark reviewed the current status of SB 5515, the OUS budget bill. Currently, it includes \$10 million for faculty salary increases (\$2 million additional in co-Chairs budget and another \$8 million resulting from the positive May revenue forecast). The budget also includes \$6.8 million to reduce student/faculty ratios, \$9 million for regional universities, and \$20.6 million for enrollment growth. Mark indicated that faculty should also be looking at these three funding streams for help with salaries. We will distribute the per school breakout of the final budget numbers once available.
- b. It was agreed that AOF should send a letter to Sen. Vickie Walker and Rep. Larry Galizio thanking them for their efforts on the OUS budget. Additionally, Marie suggested we thank David Sarasohn (Oregonian) for all of his editorials.
- c. Mark noted that tax discussions are in a stalemate with no movement on the cigarette, beer, corporate minimum, or gas taxes. House Republicans have refused to give them the needed votes for a 3/5 majority vote on any taxes except an extension of the provider tax which was agreed upon by the providers.
- d. The Legislature is moving through its agenda and appears on track to leave even before the June 29 self-imposed deadline.
- e. Mark then reviewed the status of a number of substantive bills Public Affairs Counsel is tracking for AOF:
 - i. HB 2726 would have required state funded research that benefits private enterprise to create jobs in Oregon. While sounding good, it would have been difficult to track and prove job creation on all projects. The bill was killed in committee.
 - ii. AOF appears to be having success on moving a bill through that would eliminate the PERS break-in-service rule. The bill number keeps changing but we appear to be moving forward

- iii. AOF was successful in amending HB 3183 to remove the Optional Retirement Plan language to ensure that voluntary employer contributions to a 403(b) plan cannot be counted against current retirement contributions.
- f. Mark reviewed the current status of the various PERS court cases. Mark indicated that the PERS coalition would be meeting in the near future to discuss the contingency fund. The Coalition feels this fund is too large. PAC has also been working with PERS on obtaining costs of an “ad hoc” increase to benefit those who have been retired long enough that the COLA’s are not keeping up with inflation.
- g. Marie has been instrumental in her work on the OUS retirement redesign and will provide AOF with a report on the work that is being done.
- h. Membership: it was determined that AOF would work on crafting a plan for gaining membership from collective bargaining units to be presented in the fall when the faculty return. Public Affairs Counsel would work to provide updated lists of AOF members and non-members for each of the campus representatives. It was also suggested that new faculty be given a reduced membership rate their first year and PAC would work to provide new faculty lists to campus representatives as well. Mark committed to working with Neil Bryant to determine if there is an OUS system wide email list available.
- i. Website: There was consensus that the website was not “glitzy” enough and needed work to show AOF’s accomplishments. Mark committed to getting Erica, Drew, and Marie on the phone to discuss needed improvements. There needs to be an “AOF Accomplishments” page and an “AOF Current Project” page.

VI. The meeting was adjourned.