

AOF Board Minutes

Feb. 9, 2008

Present were President Marie Vitulli (UO), Vice-President Steve Gibbons (WOU), Secretary-Treasurer Kemble Yates (SOU), Tim Thompson (OIT), Greg Monahan (EOU), Tim Thompson (OIT), and Bob Becker (OSU). Also present: Mark Nelson, Erica Hagedorn, and Karen Mainzer.

President Marie Vitulli called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

The minutes of our January meeting were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Our membership recruiting did reap some new memberships and we have received legal fees from the settlement.

Campus reports—

UO (MV)

- STILL great concern about the finances and cost of new basketball arena.
- Marie attended a meeting of about 40 people about collective bargaining for faculty at UO. AAUP and AFT representatives were there.
- The Senate budget committee has begun work on updating a white paper on faculty salaries. No firm promises yet from the administration on raises. (642 tenure related faculty, 199 instructors, 30 visiting.)

OSU (BB)

- There was also a collective bargaining “exploratory meeting” in January at OSU. Relatedly, the OSU AAUP chapter has been inactive for two years.

OIT (TT)

- A lot of snow! Closures...
- Another look at administrative structure going on. Likely model will be President, Provost, and (a return to) 2 Deans.
- Presidential search underway.
- The administration is claiming a projected \$1.6-2.2 M budget shortfall IF the Senate's faculty salary plan is completely enacted. No raises have occurred yet.
- Salary increases: everyone will get a 3% COLA and the remaining 4% will go to merit, promotions, and disciplinary adjustments. The goal of the disciplinary adjustments will get OIT faculty to 91.5% of its comparators in salary. For next year, the announced intent is another 7% -- 4.5% in COLA and remainder in other raises.
- The faculty and the administration are jousting a bit on the issue of the faculty/student ratio and funding.
- Faculty at OIT working hard on its comparator list.

EOU (GM)

- The Dean of Arts and Sciences is on the market, and will likely be gone by the end of the academic year. Presidential search will start next year.
- Raises were in January 31 paychecks, and “fair share” has also commenced. [Dues are 1.4% of salary while fair share is 1.1%.]
- Acting President has received a letter from PERS assuring her that she can continue working without penalty.

WOU (SG)

- Pre-Nursing and History Master's (new programs) have been approved.
- Provost search in final stages. An offer will be going out soon to the number one candidate.

SOU (KY)

- Raises hit faculty paychecks January 31.
- Provost search is in final stages.

Executive Director Report (Mark Nelson) --

Karen recommended we look at the OUS budget manual – she'll send us the link and we'll have the link put on the AOF web site...

The February session is underway. The big issue right now is that the revenue forecast is now looking down from projected (most discouraging estimate is \$150 M down). There is a \$139 M "Rainy Day Fund". If this news continues to go south, there is the chance of special sessions to deal with balancing the budget.

Some of the scenarios envisioned by the co-chairs of Ways & Means might have them try to hold back some or all of the \$130 M for state employees compensation increases; it's too early to think that's likely. OUS share is \$31 M; a UO administrator has claimed that an error in how police & corrections calculation will result in \$4 -5 M reduction in the OUS share.

Karen pulled together and passed out a very interesting spreadsheet summarizing each campus' 06-7 and 07-08 operating budgets.

Our AOF letters to the faculties of UO, OSU, and PSU are ready and will be sent with the greatest dispatch.

In working with Neil Bryant, we all need to let Mark know if we're aware of new programs and new faculty lines at our institutions. [Don't include replacement positions or new programs that are just reallocations of existing budget.]

PERS litigation: We have received our share of the Strunk litigation award. No big news here. The coalition has essentially lost on the Henderson and Robertson cases. Bell case looking good – PERS may be willing to settle. See our agenda for a little more detail.

Other PERS: We've begun proactively looking at legislative concepts. One bill would improve the COLA issue for retirees. There are significant issues around rehiring retired employees and the whole 1039 issue. Another potential issue is perhaps steering how reserves are spent. There's also a glitch in the Tier Two disability allowance that needs to be addressed. We continue to be wary of the decoupling (of ORP/PERS contribution) issue OUS wants us to buy into. We have signaled a willingness to talk & see if there is some common ground.

Membership: Our fall membership solicitation is done. We'll be doing another solicitation this spring.

Future meetings: March 8, April 12, May 10

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM