

AOF Board Minutes

January 17, 2009

Present were Marie Vitulli, Greg Monahan, Tim Thompson, and Bob Becker. Also present: Mark Nelson, Erica Hagedorn and Dave Reinhard.

President Marie Vitulli called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The minutes from the November meeting were not available, because Kemble Yates is on sabbatical.

Treasurer's Report: Short discussion of need to increase membership.

Campus reports-

UO (MV)

- Basketball arena proceeds inexorably.
- Discussion of disbanding the University Senate in favor of an Executive Committee.
- Departments/Colleges asked to make 10% cuts.
- Meeting with AFT/AAUP representative on 1/12/09 with follow up on 2-9-09. MV sees as best hope for unionization. Request to AOF to share list of UO faculty and librarians.
- Latest version of academic plan posted.
- Administration delayed new Conflict of Interest Policy; Senate ad hoc committee formed with Peter Gilkey as chair.
- Peter Gilkey resigned as president of AAUP; Carl Bybee is interim president. Meeting to talk about election and creation/adoption of by laws on Weds. Jan 21st.
- Job searches continue.
- UO will fund the shortfall in the Oregon Opportunity Grants.
- Statutory meeting to be held to ratify revised governance document; current Senate never properly approved, according to recent DOJ letter. Work underway to define statutory faculty.

OSU (BB)

- Sen. Morse and Rep. Gelsler spoke to the last IFS meeting.
- The OSU strategic plan is in its second phase.
- The Faculty Economic Welfare and Retirement Committee of IFS have not met yet this year.
- As an aside, the board received a report about a private school of osteopathic medicine that is hoping to locate in Lebanon.

EOU (GM)

- Administrators are wary of the budget crisis and are already cutting as far as they can.

- The administration has suspended searches for academics and is discussing increasing the minimum class size.
- The administration has also suspended all sabbaticals for the next year.

OIT (TT)

- Deep thermal drilling is occurring now to tap into geothermal power for the campus.
- The administration has signaled it will pick up the shortfall of the recent 1.1% cut to the Oregon Opportunity Grants program for low-income students.
- The administration is also undertaking program prioritization modeling and discussed a four-day furlough that could amount to a 2% pay decrease.

Executive Director Report (Mark Nelson)

The revenue forecast for the 2007-09 biennium is bleak, as well as for the upcoming 2009-11 biennium. Legislators have asked all agencies to propose 5% budget cuts for the remainder of the biennium that ends on June 20, which intensifies the cuts impact because it asks for all the money to be cut in the last four months of the biennium.

The forecast are likely to get worse, and may have been tempered by an upcoming bond sale. The 2007-09 biennium hole is likely to be around \$700 million short, while the next biennium will likely be \$2-3 billion short of essential budget levels.

Leadership is still unsure about whether to use the Rainy Day Fund and Education Stability Fund dollars to fill out this biennium, or to boost the next.

California's deficit is up to \$44 billion, and Oregon is usually around 10% of that, while Washington's is \$6 billion, and Oregon is usually around half of that state's deficit.

Legislators are awaiting the federal stimulus package to pass, but have many different ideas as to when and on what to spend the money.

Discussion of how salary freeze is not really a salary freeze for classified workers and public school teachers because of the many steps in their pay scales. There may be no salary increase or even COLA budgeted for these workers, but they will all receive a step Increase except those maxed out at the top step.

The board approved allowing PAC to submit public records requests at each institution requesting information about the 2007-08 faculty salary base compared to that of classified workers at that institution and those workers step increases.

The board would also like to pursue where the student: faculty ratio money appropriated in 2007 has been spent.

Nelson described the new leadership on the Ways and Means Committee, as well as the Education Subcommittee. All bills referred to Ways and Means will be referred to a subcommittee, which is a shift in policy that previously allowed the co-chairs to kill bills by simply not referring them to a sub.

PERS Update

The board discussed the PERS reserves information that PERS staff passed along, as well as the OPRI ad hoc increase.

Bill Discussion

The board assigned priorities for the bills