

**Board Minutes****April 2, 2011**

Present: Kemble Yates, Jacqueline Arante, Tim Thompson, Steve Gibbons, and Alan Bakalinsky. Kristen Leonard from C&E Systems was also present.

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 by President Tim Thompson.

Minutes from the February 26, 2011 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was discussed, and approved.

Kemble discussed OFPAC. He and Tim are now the authorized signers on the checking account. Kemble has also become the authorized person for the Ameritrade account. Kemble hired Barb Barasa to work on getting our web site transferred to another entity and revising a new website.

Tim suggested Kemble look into new stationary and envelopes for AOF.

**PSU (JA):**

At Senate, the administration announced everyone should budget a 3% cut going into next year. There is a "hiring pause". This has been slightly relaxed to a fixed-term/adjunct hiring pause. The PSU Senate passed a resolution to ask the administration to develop a reasonable faculty staffing and compensation plan, including a new comparator group of universities. They demand a report in April, 2012. The AAUP reopener of \$1M still hasn't been distributed to faculty (for professional activity). AAUP is running a membership campaign and will open bargaining later this month. There is also serious concern on PSU campus about the rank definition changes to OAR 580-020-0005 proposed by the OUS (as discussed at the February Provost Council meeting).

**OSU (AB):**

Faculty Senate passed a resolution in favor of SB 242. The Chancellor will be addressing the OSU Senate this month. There will be symposium titled (paraphrase) "Wisconsin: Could it happen here?". An AAUP accountant of OSU's budget in a nutshell says that OSU is flush, and should not have done furloughs.

**WOU (SG):**

Bargaining has opened, and there have been two bargaining meetings. The faculty are asking for more development monies, and some better loading accounting for labs, etc. WOU currently has a 17% fund balance, but of course a lot of this is mandated to pay for the future of the "Western Promise".

**SOU (KY):**

APSOU's bargaining team has been named (Kemble is on it; Sherry Ettlich is chief). The SOU President ran a budget forum during our finals week... SOU is projected to have a very small but positive fund balance. The current scare factor being spread among chair and office coordinators that S&S will have to be cut again, and there is pushback because enrollment growth requires at least a little more. SOU did cancel its spring quarter furloughs!

### **Lobbyist Report (KL):**

SB 242 has been amended to change a "may" to "shall" on the level of "health benefits" and "deferred compensation" that will be offered to OUS employees "comparable to other state employees", thanks to Kristen and other lobbyists (Rob Waggoner, AFT, and Melissa Unger, SEIU) work.

PERS has been relatively quiet over the last four weeks. But this Friday, April 8, hearings will be held in the Business and Labor Committee on a package of bills, HB 2113 and 2114. These bills are essentially housecleaning, and the PERS Coalition is largely neutral on these. It is expected the bills will then be sent on to the joint Ways & Means Committee. An advantage of getting the bill to W & M is that prevents a Minority Report tactic that would allow a drastically different bill to replace the original.

Another package of bills, HB 2456 (and 2989, 3116, and 3218) will also be heard. HB 2456 addresses the whole out-of-state supplement to your retirement annuity. The PERS Coalition will likely support 2456 if it is enacted *prospectively* (i.e. to future retirees, but not already retired ones). HB 3116 would prevent PERS retirees (drawing retirement) from being employed in PERS-eligible work. We STRONGLY oppose this, as so many faculty currently agree to relinquish tenure in return for such employment.

Now HB 3218... it would "allow" an employer decide to cover only half of the 6% pick-up. There is a great ambiguity as to what the language even means, let alone how it would play out were it passed. But a possible interpretation is that this bill makes the choices effectively 0% or 3% (and thus eliminating the right of employers to fully pick up the employee contribution). Greg Hartman will definitely testify against this bill. As of now, it *appears* that this bill (and 2989 and 3116) will die in committee.

Regarding health benefits & related bills and policy... A large group organized by the Governor met through February and March to put everything on the table. Aggregate all of the monies, programs, and interests to more efficiently and coherently deliver health services. They created a 3 page report, and gave it to the Legislature. No *bill* yet exists based on this report, but all PEBB interests must be very tuned into this developing drama. Kristen will e-mail us this report.

Co-chairs budget. Not much detail on higher ed's budget. Actually, the key question right now is what amount of money are we budgeting to. Dennis Richardson wants to budget only to about 80% of current service level, and hold the rest in reserve. They developed the 100 (for 2011) and 93 (for 2012), plus a \$310M reserve to spent in 2012 (if

this revenue materializes), plus a \$150 M true reserve (again, if the revenue comes in). Their goal is to move K-12 budget in April (unprecedentedly early). Incidentally, kicker reform is very unlikely this session.

### **Next Meeting**

We agreed to meet again 10 AM at PSU on May 21. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.