

AOF Board Minutes

May 21, 2011

Present: Kemble Yates, Tim Thompson, Steve Gibbons, and Alan Bakalinsky.

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 by President Tim Thompson.

Minutes from the April 2, 2011 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was discussed, and approved. Kemble announced that our web page should be up and running this week. He also passed out our membership list.

President's report. We need to have an annual meeting. Both Tim and Kemble expressed a willingness to serve another year as President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively.

OIT (TT): Sitting on about 10% reserves, but has to make \$2M in cuts. A Program Reduction & Elimination Committee has been formed. Some of the financial uncertainty is due to bond liability for various capital construction projects. OIT is in the middle consolidating its Portland activity at a new Wilsonville campus. There is talk of contracting out the Bookstore and the Food Services, and rethinking the contract with IKON for copying and printing services.

EOU Chip did send us a report, and here it is: Eastern cut about \$4 million in administrative and faculty positions last week. Some of the tenured folks will be with us for another year as per contracts. Tenure track positions were cut in art, music, theater, gender studies, and computer science. Fixed term positions were lost in chemistry, physics, biology, foreign languages, and English. Retirement incentives (health care bridges to medicare) were accepted by 3-4 faculty across campus. These positions will not be refilled. Major administrative positions cut include director of financial aid and director of IT. No cuts were made to the strongest departments including education, business, and psychology.

OSU (AB):

The President has signaled a major budget announcement for June. The Linus Pauling Institute is just about done, and will open this summer. Carey Nelson, national AAUP President, will be visiting OSU and speaking next week.

WOU (SG):

VP for Finance announced an ending fund balance of 17%. They target a 5% increase in tuition for new students (and then the "Promise" kicks in for those students, freezing that rate for 4 years).

SOU (KY):

APSOU's bargaining team opened negotiations last week. The APSOU Issues poll reflected some deep unhappiness by the faculty toward the administration. There is particular unhappiness with how tenure and promotion standards appear to have become a moving target for those midstream in the pipeline. The SOU financial position appears much improved from a few years ago, as evidenced by a positive (2%) fund balance and sustained increases in enrollment.

Lobbyist Report (we discussed the written report from Kristen Leonard):

We agreed to put Tim Thompson in as a nominee for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. We will construct a "farm team" of other faculty leaders who might make good candidates for statewide commissions and task forces related to higher ed issues.

We decided we are neither hostile to nor enthusiastic about HB 3418, which would create a task force which would assess academic quality and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor.

We decided to endorse WOU professor, Emily Plec, for the small university faculty seat on the OUS board. Tim will write a letter of support for her.

PERS ... We discussed the possible Hobson's choice of just losing the 6% pick-up or agreeing to "let it be bargained". Many AOF members (and OUS employees generally) are not represented and would very probably just lose the pick-up in this system. While all faculty at EOU, WOU, PSU, and SOU have unions, the faculty at OSU, UO, OIT, and OHSU do not. Further, approximately a third of ALL OUS employees are neither faculty nor classified – and not unionized. Indeed, all state employees in any kind of supervisory capacity (ODOT, Corrections, DAS, judicial, social services, etc.) are not represented. So AOF opposes any weakening of the language in statute regarding the 6% pick-up. Another potential ally on this issue, both in the PERS coalition and generally on unrepresented employees would be the retirees group Bob Becker is active in.

Next Meeting

We will meet sometime in late June or July. Tim will be in touch with us by e-mail to set a date. We might consider meeting on a week day.