

AOF Board Minutes

March 17, 2012

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

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

Minutes from the January 28, 2012 meeting approved as amended.

Treasurer's report was accepted. Kemble announced that the Ameritrade account has been closed, and the Public Affairs Counsel debt is now completely be paid off (yea!). In our OFPAC account, Kemble informed the board that apparently the May, 2010 payroll deduct contributions check from OUS was never deposited. He arranged with OUS to receive a replacement check (for around \$600) that has now been received. Kristen agreed to check with the Secretary of State about any reporting protocols we should follow for this check.

Alan Bakalinsky ran a membership campaign at OSU. Over 3000 solicitations were sent out. To date, 9 new memberships have been received. The cost of the solicitation was \$978.25.

Jacqueline announced that she has secured an e-mail list for all PSU faculty, and is looking to run a membership drive early in spring quarter.

Kemble will send the Board 1) an electronic list of payroll deducting members, 2) an electronic copy of the AOF logo, and 3) the updated payroll deducting form.

President's Report

Tim Thompson did contact Jay Kenton's OUS office to try to get himself/AOF on mailing lists of the new entities relevant to OUS governance and budgeting. At this point, things are so new that no one really knows yet how these groups will be communicating.

OIT Campus Report (TT):

The Fiscal Advisory Committee has now been told that the geothermal wells will be producing electricity by December. Distance Education logistics and financials are still being discussed. OIT has started a capital campaign for the Wilsonville campus, and has included an appeal to faculty for donations.

OSU Campus report (AB):

The capital campaign has been going well – the original \$850 M target has now been increased to \$1 B. Alan did organize and run a membership (see more detail at the top of these minutes). OSU departments are being encouraged to develop online courses, and the proposed breakdown of online course revenue is 80% to department, 10% to the Online office, and 10% to the university's central budget.

PSU Campus report (JA):

The Senate is currently focused on the compact that PSU will have with OUS and the OEIB. There is concern especially about the targets for graduation numbers. Also, each division has been asked to cut an additional 3% from its budget for next year. Looking ahead to the next biennium, the administration is proposing to freeze all tenure-track hiring. The Provost search has named its three finalists and the hire should be completed in April.

WOU Campus report (SG):

Mark Weiss was named interim President (for this and next year). WOU's "Tuition Promise" has now morphed to become the "WOU Choice". The "SPOCK" committee is looking at which programs have capacity, which programs need additional resources, etc. The three "G" programs (German, Geology, and Geography) are all feeling heat.

SOU Campus report (KY):

The President, Provost, and Finance VP continue to communicate to the campus that there are serious budget concerns. Our Fund Balance is now scheduled to be under 5%. APSOU (SOU's faculty union) has decided to manage the SOU representative to AOF board. They'll do this by naming the SOU rep and making that person an ex-officio member of the APSOU board.

EOU Campus report (GM):

Search underway for a new Dean. The library and one of the main classroom buildings are undergoing a major remodel, and the students voted to raise their fees to remodel the student union building. A new early retirement incentive was offered to faculty 58 and over, to pay the current health premium amount until age 65. Our own Greg Monahan announced that he has taken this opportunity, and will fully retire this June (instead of next June, as he originally planned).

Lobbyist Report (KL and CP):

The February Session has now finished. Over 150 of the 300 introduced bills passed, a remarkably high percentage. A report from the OUS board docket on budget reactions to the Legislature was discussed – namely changes to budgets for 2012-13 and 2011-12 ending fund balances. This mostly reflected the 3.5 % "holdback" was in fact held back for 2012-13. Future revenue forecasts could still affect us going forward, and holding fund balances could still be targets for sweeping.

The new process for OUS budgeting (i.e. through OEIB?) is still a huge question mark for the 2013-15 biennium.

Chris and Kristen highlighted some of the bills passed. HB 4061 creates a task force (Task Force on Higher Education Governance and Coordination). Among other charges, it is this group that would ultimately make recommendations regarding individual governing boards (especially for

UO and PSU). This task force has not yet been named. Jacqueline and Tim both pointed out that there are deep concerns about HB 4059 regarding the Western Governor's University and its relationship with OUS. SB 1538 made some modifications and clarifications to the previous session's landmark SB 242. In particular, it clarifies the membership and role of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (which has also not been named yet). We expressed universal dismay that there is no direct faculty representation here, which undercuts our years long work to get faculty slots on the OUS Board. Finally, SB 1581 details the performance compacts which in turn will drive our budgeting in the future. All of this makes the Chief Education Officer a very important (and potentially Governor-dominated) position.

Regarding the endgame PERS bills... There was effectively a trade-off made to have NO PERS bills (good or bad for us) go forward this session. But then the Republican Minority Leader in the Senate, Ted Ferrioli, tried to bypass the committee procedure and grandstanded several bills (including a bill to reduce the 8% assumed interest rate to 6%) which the Senate Democrats consistently blocked. Kristen warned us that PERS attacks will continue, especially the idea of changing the 6% pick-up. The PERS Coalition has now made plans to release a weekly press release to calm and inform folks, to counteract the Oregonian-led publicity attack on PERS.

The Governor-supported bill to increase the membership on the PEBB board to make labor representatives the minority did die.

Campaign 2012: The Attorney General race will be an all-Democrat battle settled in the primary. In the Supreme Court races, (Baldwin/Sercomb/Cook) Baldwin stands out as more labor-friendly for that position. Arnie Roblan (House Co-speaker) is trying to move to the Senate. Best guess right now is a 16-14 split again. In the House, there are several open seats. It will be very lively & of course the current 30-30 split is very possibly going to break for one or the other of the parties. As for ballot measures, there's a chance there'll be another anti-payroll-deduct bill for public employees.

At our next meeting, we can more completely discuss politics. OFPAC can consider our contributions for August or September.

Jacqueline reported that there is emerging interest to resurrect the statewide AAUP chapter via a meeting this spring. AOF and IFS used to jointly sponsor this meeting at OSU each spring. We discussed dates. May 12 is bad for both Tim and Kemble. We tentatively put out May 5. We'll discuss the possibility of holding our annual meeting there too. We agreed to support this effort, as long as our cost will be under \$1000.

Next Meeting

We agreed to April 21, 2012 at PSU.
The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.