

AOF Board Minutes, February 16, 2013

Present: Kemble Yates, Jacqueline Arante, Greg Monahan, Elwyn Martin, and Tim Thompson. Kristen Leonard and Chris Parta from C&E Systems were also present.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 by President Tim Thompson.

Minutes from the January 26, 2013, meeting and Annual Meeting were approved as amended.

Lobbyist Report (KL and CP):

Chris showed us some org charts & our bill tracking feedback. We discussed several matters related to bills and concepts floating around in the Legislature. This was done to prepare for our visit with Rep. Dembrow later in our meeting.

Rep. Michael Dembrow joined us at 11 AM.

HB 2149: Who will sit on these boards? How will joint risk management be coordinated? How will academic programs be managed and coordinated? He generally favors a concept in which the individual University boards will take on the powers currently delegated to University Presidents. HIS original vision for the boards was 2 students, 2 faculty, and 1 classified rep. Predicts OUS Board will effectively be managing the regional schools. 1) Own boards? 2) Consolidated board still? 3) Attach as branches to one of the larger research schools. Maybe decide this by legislative workgroup AFTER this legislature adjourns. How does he read the “funding tea leaves”, process and amounts, for this coming biennium? He’s not sure (yet) if their budget goes straight to HECC or if individual allocations go to OUS, CC’s, and OSAC. Key will be to have a strong & organized HECC (to make sure OEIB doesn’t just get swamped by K-12 needs). Dembrow brought up two interesting cases, UVA and Penn State U, of university boards which melted down. He urged us to coordinate our allies (students, IFS, SEIU) and make the positive case for *why* students, faculty, and staff are invaluable members and perspectives for the board’s work.

Rep. Dembrow left at 12 PM

Kristen talked to us about PERS. The out-of-state piece will likely move through without active opposition by the PERS coalition. The coalition is still struggling with what, if any, COLA changes might be attempted and the impacts on its members. The other big discussion is around the issue of the period of amortization (currently 20 years) for PERS actuarial liability. **The coalition needs from US some ACTUAL examples of how the Governor’s recommended COLA changes would materially harm our members.**

Kemble suggested AOF develop some kind of primer of OUS retirement history. With this we can communicate to our members how the various changes to PERS and ORP plans would affect them.

Campus Reports

OIT (TT): Tim -- OIT will not replace their HAS dean. They are also discussing a new way to budget for director and chair salaries. OIT’s Athletic Dept. backed a proposal requiring (!) all OIT students take at least 3 credits of physical education for graduation as a way to help with its funding.

SOU (KY): A major initiative to prioritize academic and non-academic programs continues – first program reports are due by the end of February. SOU is very concerned with the Governor’s budget failure to include lottery funding for athletic programs – this is a serious blow for us (and probably all schools except OSU and

UO). Issues Committee has been formed by union in preparation for bargaining. One emerging issue is to clarify process if faculty members are being investigated for wrong doing, i.e. for cause discipline.

EOU (EM): A big issue right now is overload issues and pay. Right now, each EOU prof gets 1\$ over every \$5 in tuition revenue. The administration wants more. As a report for the EOU union, Elwyn pulled up some very interesting salary data from Oregon.gov concerning all EOU employee raises over the last 3 years.

PSU (JA): PSU Senate discussed possible gun legislation, and how it might advise House Education Committee's on these issues. PSU is very unhappy with its "OUS recognized-Peer Comparitors" was developed. A big issue for their Senate is how the new OUS ranking system will play out, and its specific consequences of reducing/eliminating tenure-eligible positions. [More info on this is available at the PSU Senate web site.] Jacqueline Arante publically thanked Amy Greenstadt for her recent re-upping with AOF. Amy's committee put together recommendations to do this in a way which minimizes the loss to current faculty. JA estimates that the proportion of faculty currently on tenure lines is now somewhere between 1/4 and 1/3 of all faculty.

Other

AAUP (JA): The organizing group is gearing for the statewide annual meeting at PSU during first weekend of April. They have developed draft constitution and bylaws. They are now working towards getting folks to run for the various offices in the organization. Jacqueline again encouraged AOF board members to become AAUP members so we can participate.

OPRI (GM): Greg recently attended their board meeting. Greg suggested they could get more active in Salem and potentially have a lot of influence.

Lobbyist Report (KL and CP):

(Late breaking news is that Chancellor Pernsteiner will be resigning, effective March 1.)

Legislative session opens Monday, Feb. 4. Still a lot of confusion how the massively new org chart for OUS will affect funding, budgets, etc.

AOF is now a working partner in the ad hoc Higher Education Coalition, which also includes lobbyists from SEIU, AAUP, AFT, OSA, and OEA. Chris attends their meetings and represents us. We saw their "principles and values" statement in e-mail traffic.

By Feb. 21, any bills that will be considered must have been introduced. April 18 is the "move out of committee deadline. Key dates for AOF to be aware of: March 1 is the target date for the Ways & Means Committee to announce the legislature's biennial budget. Also critical is the May 16 revenue forecast, which will affect the final form of the budget.

We took a look at the bills initially introduced affecting Higher Education (e.g. governance, budget, and benefits/PERS/PEBB). We tasked individual board members to read over bills to watch for "alarms", and give feedback into BillTracker for the rest of the board.

Kristen and Chris have been invited, on our behalf, to the Governor's education policy advisor's regular meetings (Ben Cannon leads this).

Kristen tells us that the House leadership believes that the "COLA remedy" that the Governor proposes in his budget cannot stand, but this does cause difficulty for creating a budget. Senator Richard Devlin (tasked by

Pres. Courtney) is investigating solutions. No clear legislation has yet been proposed, but there almost certainly will be.

We need to be active on the PERS Coalition's campaign opposing COLA caps. Actual examples would be very useful Kristen and Chris in this session.

Next Meeting

We agreed to meet next on April 27 at the C&E office at 3321 SE 20th & Powell, 97202.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.