

AOF Board Minutes, June 1, 2013

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

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

Lobbyist Report (KL and CP):

We discussed the May revenue forecast. Corporate kicker might kick, but any monies would be put in reserve, not allocated. Personal kicker is unlikely to kick. The reality is the legislature could now close and budget appropriately with available funds. Both the R's and Gov K would like to take another bite out of PERS to get more money for education, but they disagree severely on the size of the bite!

We then discussed the status of the higher ed reorganizing. On institutional boards... hearings have occurred, Greg Monahan testified on behalf of AOF. There is still a lot of wrangling on whether voting members of students, faculty, and/or staff will be on individual boards. A change in nomination process – it's likely that an amendment will be added so that instead of just the institution bringing nominations to Governor, any group will be allowed to make recommendations for nomination to Governor. IFS has now submitted written testimony demanding voting faculty members on institutional boards.

On shared services: there will likely be an amendment forcing everyone to cooperate with shared services of all OUS institutions. The regional universities are now lobbying for ITS own boards in self-defense. The biggest question, still, is how HECC will actually allocate monies to the campuses. We agreed that as an organization, we should now support ALL institutions having their own institutional boards.

On PERS... All is related to the endgame and the agency budgets. K-12 budget has now moved to the floor. Kristen believes higher ed's budget will be in the real end part of the endgame. The sense is that any second bite from PERS would be directed to lowering future unfounded liability, not to immediate increased dollars in the next biennial budget. It would be interesting to see what the exact effect of the already-passed PERS bill has on individual agencies' PERS impact. There seems to be a somewhat acceptable idea (to Democrats) to forbid money match to "inactive" members. We're very seriously concerned about the impact on faculty – Kristen and Chris are trying to be proactive on any language drafted that would shield faculty. In particular, ORP folks could be negatively impacted. On the 6% PERS pick-up... if it truly were a straight trade (6% salary increase for loss of pick-up on employee retirement contribution), this would likely be good long term for our political liability on this issue. Because the two large unions (SEIU and AFSCME) are split on this, it's unclear how this would actually play out for all of this.

Unfortunately, things are very volatile right now, and Kristen and Chris will try to keep us informed as things change – probably daily.

Other Business

We agreed that we would establish an Emeritus Membership for any faculty member who retires, and hence leaves AOF. The rate will be \$150 for a lifetime membership.

Campus Reports

OIT (TT): Tim discussed how the OIT Budget Committee – which he chairs – is in the process of making recommendations to the President on faculty compensation. Tuition at OIT is now on track to be the second highest in the state, to UO's.

SOU (KY): The major initiative to prioritize academic and non-academic programs has been completed, with two reports now completed. The reports rank all programs into five quintiles. The collective bargaining agreement mandates that each department create a “bank” to account for under and overloads for faculty, but this has only haphazardly been implemented. Collective bargaining has begun; Sherry Ettlich (Math) is the SOU union (APSOU’s) chief negotiator. The Faculty Senate has been holding several executive sessions due to concerns by the faculty of the direction of the university. The faculty union, APSOU, is administering a poll to gauge faculty discontent.

EOU (GM): Greg will be visiting this weekend, and will send us a report subsequently. There is a very current threat of not reaching a 5% fund balance at the end of the biennium.

PSU (JA): Faculty Senate is currently mesmerized by the membership issues (voting, etc.) on the hypothetical individual PSU board. Credit for “prior learning” also a hot issue for the Provost (she wants this). Three bargaining sessions have occurred. Their new management leadership (David Reese, PSU’s lead counsel) is trying to push for all but the minimum subjects of bargaining (related to PECBA) to be removed from their CBA. The proliferation of new positions without tenure continues.

Membership

Greg mentioned that OPRI has solicited the services of the NW Market Research to get contributions to their PAC, and offers folks a free one year memberships. This has been wildly successful from them, and the company’s money is on a percentage commission.

Next Meeting

We agreed to meet next, tentatively, Sept. 14 or 21.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.