

AOF Board Minutes, September 7, 2013

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 by Secretary-Treasurer Kemble Yates.

Board Structure and Recruitment

Tim Thompson announced that he is resigning from the AOF board, both as our President and OIT board member, confirming his e-mail earlier this summer. He also told us that he has found a replacement from OIT, Christian Vukasovich, who will come to our next meeting.

Alan agreed to assume acting president at least through the calendar year. Our goal is to have an annual meeting in March.

We all agreed that we need to do some work on getting reconnected to our members and updating of our web page. We also agreed to spend some money on updating our membership data base, including getting 1) work phone numbers, 2) work e-mail addresses, 3) campus mail addresses, and 4) department/unit.

A goal for this term will be to have a direct communication with our current members.

A goal for this academic year will be to determine if our organization is viable, and has a distinct mission among the many other faculty advocacy groups.

Government Relations Report (KL and CP):

Chris passed out C&E's 2013 Legislative Session Report. This gives us all a nice summary of all bills of relevance to AOF, e.g. whether they passed, text if they did, and so on. Also in our packets was a nice bundle of current info on all the new changes, the new appointments, timelines, etc.

We discussed the Board Finance and Administration Committee's unilateral decision to recalculate each university's ending fund balance to set aside more dollars for "uncollected accounts receivable" monies. This very negatively affects the universities, especially SOU, EOU, and PSU. We (Kemble) will draft a letter to Jay Kenton asking why this decision was made, and why it wasn't run through the OUS board.

The proposed special session for Sept. 30 is still not certain to happen. The Governor's "grand bargain" is still being negotiated. This is a tricky issue for AOF: the particular effect would hit Tier 1 or 2 folks who chose ORP in the 90's the worst. Of course these folks have benefited to date by the coupling of the contribution rate to PERS employer contribution rates from then until now. Another question is which is worse – some version of the grand bargain in a one day special session, or a potentially worse "fix" in the February short session. A good set of questions for us is: how many folks does this affect, by how much does this affect people, and can we get some good individual examples of these effects.

SEIU-OUS is anticipating a strike and is looking for support from faculty. This strike could happen as quickly as Sept. 23.

Campus Reports

PSU (JA): Summer session was a disaster because a late tuition increase spooked a lot of students, which in turn spooked a new dean, and caused ultimately an 82% cut in summer classes in the Humanities division. Enrollment issues for fall are also real: originally PSU anticipated a 2% increase but in fact enrollment is down.

The announced planning is for an 2.3% 2013-14 and a 7% reduction in 2014-15, and the thinking is at least the second year will involve program reductions. JA also shared an AAUP bargaining report from their chief negotiator, Ron Narode.

SOU (KY): Bargaining has proceeded over the summer, but nothing regarding money. The announcement of the new OUS policy related to bad-debt write-off hits SOU (and EOU and PSU) very hard. It's particularly frustrating that this policy change was announced with no lead time and no full Board discussion.

OSU (AB): Bob Becker, long time member of the AOF board, passed away last month due to lung cancer. A memorial service will be held soon, and Alan will forward us details as soon as he has them. The Dean of the Graduate School is the "faculty rep" to the OSU individual governing board. PEBB issues – particularly out-of-network concerns – continue to be hot at OSU. Larry Roper of OSU will be on the HECC board (as a voting member). Enrollment growth of 4 – 5 % is projected. The Bend Campus (Cascades) is now calling itself a 4 year campus. Alan is still working on replacing himself on the board.

EOU (GM): The new calculation of fund balance (see above) drops EOU's ending fund balance to about 1%. Class size triggers for cancellation continue to be an issue. Building renovation continues steadily at EOU.

OIT (TT): Lots of solar panels now ring the OIT campus. It's official that EOU faculty will lose (i.e. not get) the final 2% salary increase of the previous biennium. Wilsonville campus continues to exhibit growth. There will be no Dean of Arts and Sciences; yet another a new governance structure is emerging.

Web Thoughts

We should get updates up – e.g., new officers, legislative testimony, etc.

Next Meeting

We agreed to meet next, tentatively, Nov. 16.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.