

AOF Board Minutes, February 1, 2014

Present: Kemble Yates, Jacqueline Arante, Greg Monahan, Alan Bakalinsky, and Christian Vukasovich. Chris Parta and Kristen Leonard from C&E Systems were also present.

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 by Acting President Alan Bakalinski.

Minutes from our November 16 meeting were approved as amended.

We also discussed the Treasurer's report, and it was approved.

It was moved and approved to appoint Greg Monahan as Acting Vice-President until we hold an annual meeting and election. Alan Bakalinsky also agreed to continue as Acting President until that time.

Lobbyist Report (KL and CP)

We discussed the TRU presidents' hybrid governance model presentation to the OUS Board. It's clear that all four presidents want this; the whole campus community support at WOU and OIT is for it, while the support at EOU and SOU is more mixed. The TRUs have actually created a lobbying team (includes Dan Bates) to work for this.

Shared services is now a key battleground for how the OUS evolves/dies. The Presidents' report to the OUS Board on Shared Services outlines which universities want to participate in which shared services. Clearly, UO wants out of most of it. It may well be impossible for the universities to remain collectively in PEBB. This will cause there to be winners and losers if the PEBB composite rate is "unbundled" to actual cost for each institution.

Alan followed up on his meeting with Ben Cannon in December. The following are notes from Alan and Chris:

1. University-wide programs currently administered by the OUS (e.g., international programs) will not be administered by HECC which won't have the authority. New arrangements will have to be developed. It is likely that schools with the biggest stake in such programs will take over the administrative function on behalf of and in agreement with all other schools.
2. The current reduced tuition benefit for university employees that is transferable to all OUS schools (AOF accomplishment) will likely have to be renegotiated with each school. Alternatively, convincing the legislature to make the current practice law will depend on well AOF or whoever takes the charge, argues that retention of the benefit will advance state goals for higher ed that focus on i) undergraduate education, ii) completion of degrees, and iii) equity.
3. With respect to institutional boards for the smaller universities (TRUs), the governor is trying to convince the TRUs to at least do an in-depth analysis of the benefits of affiliation with one of the larger universities (OSU, PSU, UofO) before setting up boards.

[From Chris] We ended up getting a full hour with Ben, which was great. To add some other take aways to the list, we definitely started to hear the message that the HECC is currently not being seen as an overarching "governing board" or having the same authority as OUS in all areas. It will have a narrower focus than OUS. With institutional boards coming on line they will be more hands off in many areas than OUS is/was. Ben sees HECC's budgetary role as both advisory to the universities (and their boards) and then more in depth/involved on the backside, actual allocation process and development.

We were told that the current funding allocation model will be used through 2014, but then the changes will come in 2015-16. One of the tasks of the HECC is to come up with a funding model/process. He did say that he didn't think Oregon would adopt a formula based budget like some states have (Tennessee).

Ben sees coordination and approval of academic programs as one of the focuses the HECC, to make sure that Oregonians are being served and that there are not many repetitive programs etc. New programs are still developed at the university level and approved by individual inst. boards, but then the HECC reviews the proposal to make sure it fits within the system well, is what I was hearing.

There does seem to be a potential gap and uncertainty for OUS wide programs like the international program, the tuition benefit, and other similar programs, that is being created by the break up of OUS. Ben conveyed that he wasn't totally sure how these will be handled and that university presidents may not be focusing on this yet since there is so much change happening at once. Alan characterizes the potential situation well that, similar to some of the shared services, a particular university might end up running a certain program for all the universities or certain programs like the tuition benefit, might end up having to be continued/approved by each university since there will be no OUS.

Regarding governance, as Alan states, we definitely got the impression that the Governor (and the HECC) would like the TRUs to really take a hard, in depth look at affiliation (at least EOU and SOU), as that model could provide a level of stability for these institutions and it is a model used in many states.

Other Business

Greg reported that Bob Davies said that the faculty tuition benefit would likely be incorporated into the final resolution of the shared services issues.

The February legislative session begins Monday. At this time, there are no new PERS bills on the docket. The Moro lawsuit will likely be decided right in the middle of the 2015 session, though. The most important committee (again) for us is the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee (in both houses). About one third of the R's will be leaving after this session!

We quickly ran through bills likely to be of interest to AOF, and assigned reviews by board members.

Web Site

We're in the process of changing webmaster & server. We all gave Kemble input, and he will try to implement these major revisions.

AAUP Report

We still intend to couple the AOF annual meeting with the annual AAUP-Oregon meeting, slated for April 26 at LaSelle Conference Center at OSU. AAUP does seem to be getting itself organized, including organizing some of the private universities. They are looking for ideas for breakout sessions.

New Board Members

Greg believes he has recruited a new member from EOU, DeAnna Timmermann. Jacqueline believes she has recruited a member from UO.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for March 15, 2014.