

AOF Board Minutes, May 31, 2014

C&E Office, Portland, OR.

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

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

Minutes from our April 26 meeting were approved as amended.

Kemble summarized our financial position for both our regular AOF account and for the OFPAC account. The web site is up and running, and the web master has been paid. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Lobbyist Report (CP)

TRU Governance. On May 14 the OUS Board completed their approval for the TRU's request for individual boards, to be active July 1, 2015. WOU and OIT were approved unconditionally, while EOU and SOU were approved with "conditions". These conditions are based on financial and enrollment metrics which will be periodically reviewed (June 30, 2015; December 31, 2015; and December 30, 2017). The new TRU boards are being recruited now, will be appointed by the Governor, after being approved by the Senate. Chris predicted the boards will be named by the end of the calendar year.

Shared Services. Transition is in full swing, but not much new has happened since our last meeting.

HECC Transition. Chris distributed a list of the HECC members with brief bios, and a (still evolving) org chart. Kemble suggested that we send one of us to meetings to give some public testimony.

The E-Board also approved a HECC recommendation to allocate \$3M of the original \$3.5M (out of OUS budget) for targeted purposes in the OUS-to-HECC/individual boards transition. Much of the money went to the TRU's for various aspects of shared services and the set-up for the individual boards.

Though there has been no change to the faculty tuition benefit which is currently implemented via OUS policy, we continue to be concerned that this not be reduced or lost in the transition.

Tuition. Shared what the tuition proposals for 2014-15 of the institutions made to the OUS board. Very little in tuition increases are currently being proposed.

PERS update. The Supreme Court has also made key scheduling decisions regarding the Moro case (which is carrying the freight for challenging the Legislative decisions to dramatically reducing COLAs and hits out-of-state retirees' pension amounts. Best guess is the decision will come right before or during the 2015 legislative session.

OFPAC

Primary results. Two out of three of the candidates our PAC, OFPAC, made donations to won their primaries, and are now very likely winners in the general election. These people were Barbara Smith-Warner and Ken Helm. The candidate that we supported who lost, John Turner, in eastern Oregon, unfortunately lost. A general observation is that the Republican caucus in both the House and Senate seems to be trending more conservative and anti-public employee in posture.

C&E System recommendations for contributions. The Board unanimously approved contributions to

Allocate up to \$12,250 to candidates for their general election campaigns [KY attach list].

Lobbying Contract Change

Kristen followed up on her announced intention to close down lobbying arm of C&E Systems, and the need to step down from her contract with Association of Oregon Faculties no later than July 21. She expressed her sadness on leaving us, but she is very excited about her new opportunity with the Port of Portland. She also expressed that, though her contract with us is technically up on August 31, she will work with us to make our transition as much a “soft landing” as possible.

Chris talked to us for a bit. He plans on continuing as a lobbyist, and has formed a company to be able to continue to do this. He also would very much appreciate the opportunity to continue representing AOF. In any continuing relationship, he would maintain a subscription of C&E’s Bill Tracker service.

A motion to have the board make an e-mail vote on how to make a transition [because we won’t meet face-to-face before September] was approved.

Campus Reports

PSU (JA): The President does seem to have mellowed and publically expressed cooperation with faculty since the barely-averted strike. The ESL program was recently moved outside the bargaining unit; a similar tactic is being employed on the science education program. A committee continues to craft a proposal for post-tenure review. PSU has decided to sell University Place(the old DoubleTree Hotel).

OIT (CV): The search for a suitable faculty member for this board is underway. There is also a transition going on for the internal academic administration. A lot of faculty are teaching overloads, including online courses. Technology, ironically, has been failing. For example, the campus web software, Blackboard, has failed.

EOU (DT): Bargaining continues. Closure on most issues should finish soon. But the two main money articles are still to be bargained. Jay Kenton will be arriving soon to take over as President. Unfortunately programs (as majors) continue to be cut.

OSU (AB): A survey of non-tenure track faculty has been completed and a report publicized. An average 3% merit-based raise effective Jul 1 will given to all faculty (tenure-track and non-tenure track) who have ≥ 0.5 FTE unclassified positions, and were hired after Jan 1, 2014. Actual raises will range from 0 to 6%.

SOU (KY): Since the report from last meeting, President Mary Cullinan has applied for a second presidential position – at Eastern Washington University. The cloud of her not receiving a renewal plus the no-confidence votes for the Provost and VP for Finance and Administration has led to great leadership uncertainty. The faculty union is involved in a number of grievances related to the retrenchment plan and subsequent faculty notices. The Faculty Senate is in the process for recommending 3 faculty for the faculty position on our new governing board.

Next Meeting

We tentatively scheduled our next meeting for September 20, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was called to order at 1 PM.

Present were Kemble Yates (SOU), Christian Vukasovich (OIT), Greg Monahan (EOU emeritus), Alan Bakalinsky (OSU), Jacqueline Arante (PSU), and DeAnna Timmermann (EOU). Also present were Kristen Leonard and Chris Parta from C&E Systems.

The Treasurer gave an annual report on our finances for May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014, which was accepted. He (Kemble) will try to get a statement on the AOF web site with a suggestion proportion of 12.5% of membership dues may be tax-deductible (based on the non-lobbying proportion of our expenses).

Chris Parta gave an annual lobbying report covering the full 2013 session, the special 2013 September session, and the short 2014 February session. The original SB 270 bill was tracked and ushered to a place where institutional boards are required to have a faculty, student, and staff member with at least the potential right of a vote – a right which to date has been granted by the Governor in all board member approvals. The “grand bargain” on PERS cuts/reforms. The ultimate “deal” didn’t get consummated until the special session in September. This bill, SB 822, was passed with only Democratic support. Subsequently, the PERS Coalition has challenged this in court. Many Republicans opposed this bill because they collectively felt *even more* concessions and cuts by public employees were required.

President Alan Bakalinsky reported on the state of AOF. He’s pleased that our board is approaching full representation. We welcome DeAnna Timmermann (EOU) and Christian Vukasovich (OIT) as new board members. We need to reconnect with our membership, and build it. We also need to thoughtfully reflect on what our mission ought to be in the brave new world of individual boards and a much less cohesive group of public universities.

A motion to appoint Alan Bakalinsky as President, Greg Monahan as Vice President, and Kemble Yates as Secretary-Treasurer for the coming year passed unanimously.