

AOF Board Minutes, September 20, 2014

Present: Kemble Yates, Jacqueline Arante, Greg Monahan, Alan Bakalinsky, Christian Vukasovich, and DeAnna Timmermann. Chris Parta was also present.

Meeting was called to order at 10:18 by President Alan Bakalinsky. He acknowledged that during the summer, AOF signed a contract with Chris Parta of Parta Oregon, Inc., for one year as the AOF lobbyist.

Minutes from our last meeting (May 31) were approved as amended.

We also discussed the Treasurer's report. Kemble reported that he filed our tax return this summer (our fiscal year is May 1 to April 30). We are a 501 (c) (6) organization. UO is doing its own payroll now, so Kemble worked with them to have their members' dues and OFPAC contributions from Payroll Deductions direct deposited to our account.

Lobbyist Report (CP)

TRU Boards. The Senate has approved (most) of the nominees for the TRU individual institutional boards. OIT still has a few nominees being processed.

Higher Ed Coalition. Chris discussed with us some conversations around Higher Education Funding Priorities that a higher educational coalition (AFT, AAUP-PSU, OSA, AOF, OEA, SEIU) is putting together. This would help us focus our efforts toward how the higher education budget could be put together for the 2015-17 legislative budget. One thought is that beyond clearly pushing for a minimum amount for continuing service level, we should look for ways to target additional funding towards the 40-40-20 goals.

Legislative Concepts. Chris informed us that other legislative concepts likely to emerge for the 2015 session is a Shared Services bill mandating the former OUS institutions must combine on Risk Management, Benefits, and Collective Bargaining. Greg asked if maybe adding in an expanded (and codified) tuition benefit relevant in the post-OUS world would be a good idea. Chris said maybe, but he is working on this in other ways as well. The current benefit is preserved through June 30, 2015, by an agreement of all the previously-OUS institutions as a transitional measure, but it will sunset then. Another legislative concept that might come through would be a bill about adjunct rights (e.g. access to health care coverage).

HECC Budget Allocation Planning. Chris next shared with us what is going on in HECC in terms of budget planning and allocation. We looked at some of the relevant points from the "HECC Table of Action Items". This will include a successor-distribution formula (to the RAM model), and the outline of the outcomes-based part of the budgetary system. The IFS President, Jeff Dense, is part of the advisory committee building the latter – as are the Provosts and the Vice Chancellors of Finance and Administration of the institutions. Oregon is now 46th in per-capita funding for public university spending.

PERS. Lawsuit ongoing; oral arguments will begin October 14. Best guess on timing of the decision is about April, 2015. Not great timing viz-a-viz the legislative decision and the May forecast. A combination of overturn of COLA cuts plus personal income tax kicker engaging would create a budget nightmare for the Legislature and the Governor (and probably for higher education).

OFPAC. We considered and approved some additional contributions to candidates we believe are friendly to our issues.

Other Business

Newsletter. Alan passed around a template for a newsletter (perhaps once a quarter?). We all agreed it was good idea. Perhaps the first one would go just to current members, and probably by email. One distribution strategy would be for each campus rep to send this to our members on their respective campuses' members.

Campus Reports

PSU (JA): Credit for prior learning is an active topic of discussion with the PSU Senate. The Faculty Development monies in the CBA is inadequate, and the Senate (with the administration) is looking for ways to supplement. PSU has implemented some differential tuition for undergraduates (e.g. Business). 2% decline in enrollment anticipated for 2014-15. Summer is also a problem – it is not nearly as successful as a “self-support” program now. PSU faculty compensation for summer courses is not in the current CBA (!).

SOU (KY): New President, Roy Saigo, most recently of St. Cloud State University, came on in June on a two year Interim Appointment. The Associate Provost (Sue Walsh) was promoted to Acting Provost. General optimism abounds about the leadership change, tempered by the reality that we are acting under a three year strait jacket of a Retrenchment Plan that notices approximately 13 FTE of tenured and other professorial faculty. There are no raises in the 2013-15 CBA (other than floor increases), plus we have 3 days of furlough for this year.

OSU (AB): Alan did approach a WOU person (Dean Braa) about becoming an AOF rep, and so far, he is not responded. Joe Lowndes couldn't come to this meeting, but is very willing to stay involved. Tightened tuition remission eligibility for graduate students has become an issue on the OSU campus.

EOU (DT and GM): Jay Kenton is now President, so a search for a new President is beginning – will hopefully hire by end of the academic year. Immediately fired three administrators. Fund balance “improved” from -1.5% to -0.5% effective July 1. Enrollments have also settled to about -10%, with less than 1000 students resident on campus. EOU recently settled a three year contract, with a ratification vote pending. No raises for first year, will get a 1.5% for this year (in Feb. 2015), and 5.5% during the third year (2015-16). An “Eastern Promise” similar to the “Western Promise” is being contemplated, but also includes a commitment by graduates to give back 1% of their salary for a while (or a corresponding set of hours of community service).

OIT (CV): Good news – Provost announced a doubling from \$500 to \$1000 per faculty per year of professional development money. New dean of Humanities and Health Sciences has been hired. Dan Peterson, former Faculty Senate President, is the faculty rep on the new board. There are still four slots to be named.

Next Meeting

We agreed to meet next, tentatively, Nov. 8 and Jan. 10.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.