

AOF Board Minutes, November 8, 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 10:10 by President Alan Bakalinsky.

Minutes from our last meeting (Sept. 20) were approved as amended by email.

Motion: For future minutes, the secretary will send out draft minutes by email & after amendments are received, we will approve them by email & post them asap to the web site. Passed.

We also discussed the Treasurer's report, and it was approved. Kemble reported that our OFPAC account has now been hit by all contributions except two. We will now be rebuilding the account until the next election. He also said that one of our contributions was reported late to the Secretary of State (21 days, instead of inside the 7 day limit). It was flagged as late and he will let the board know if we will be reprimanded and/or fined for this.

Lobbyist Report (CP)

Election Results. Dems will hold an 18-12 majority in the Senate, and they'll also hold a 35-25 advantage in the House. This means a more friendly legislative climate for higher education funding (but see note below about "kicker"). All candidates whom AOF supported were elected. Unfortunately the ballot measure which would have allowed the state to issue bonds for student loans was crushingly defeated.

Kicker. The next (December) revenue forecast will be released Nov. 13. There is a very real possibility that it will be high enough that the kicker would kick. If it does, it would create a \$300 M hole in all emerging budget proposals.

Legislative Concepts. Chris informed us that a legislative concept regarding tuition benefit relevant in the post-OSU world is still in the works, but the reality of the individual boards still makes implementing this tricky. Chris also told us that it's his understanding that the universities have agreed to try to deal with this policy-wise before July 1, 2015. Chris encouraged us to keep this conversation going on our campuses, and to gather intelligence.

Higher Education Lobbying. In this new climate each of the larger institutions will have their own lobbyist, and the TRU's jointly share a lobbyist, Dan Bates. Debbie Koresky (PSU), Hans Bernard (UO), and Jock Mills (OSU) are the others.

HECC Budget Allocation Planning. HECC is still committed to finalizing its budget and distribution formula during the coming months, but details remain unavailable. It is clear that performance-based funding will be part of this. Hopefully the percentage of the whole will be reasonable, and there is desire to let institutions have some say in their criteria. The Governor's recommended budget will be released December 1. This sub-committee will meet again in December. The full HECC meets again Nov. 13.

IFS Statement on Outcomes-Based Funding. A motion was made to endorse the emphasis placed by IFS on academic quality as the basis for outcome-based funding for higher education. Passed.

PERS. Lawsuit oral arguments occurred October 14. Best guess on timing of the decision is about April, 2015. Chris shared with us a Legislative Fiscal Office analysis of what it would cost the state if the PERS lawsuit prevails. There are some reserves that could mitigate the immediate payback of COLA's and out-of-state reductions. The biggest impact to employers would be an increase in their contributions rates in the 2017-19 biennium.

Other Business

Bulletin. Alan hired some secretarial support to give us some design on an electronic newsletter. The first one would go just to current members, and probably by email. We'd also post it in on our web site. Jacqueline suggested we highlight our coalition with the statewide AAUP organization and its work. One distribution strategy would be for each campus rep to send this to our members on their respective campuses' members. Greg graciously agreed to be our editor/proofreader.

Campus Reports

PSU (JA): Formal training of campus security officers is being proposed, and this would allow them to be armed. This is controversial. The "Smoke Free" initiative is very active, including the proposal to make the park blocks smoke-free. The Academic Prioritization Project Committee (APPC) is underway. Fall term enrollment down -1.5%. AAUP Oregon is organizing the graduate students at PSU, and is also working on organizing the faculty at OSU.

SOU (KY): Enrollments down only slightly, so a fast-track return to retrenchment this November is very unlikely, which of course is good news. Faculty are unhappy that SEIU and administrators all have access to a health plan which only requires a 3% premium share, while faculty have to pay 5% for all plans.

OSU (AB): No new news.

EOU (DT and GM): A search for a new President continues. There is definitely a morale problem amongst faculty after all the lost positions. Enrollments are down 11.5 - 12% from last year.

OIT (CV): Enrollment down (approximately 1.5% down). Faculty hiring is almost frozen.

Next Meetings

We will meet next on Jan. 10, and then March 7 and May 16 (tentative).

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.