

## AOF Board Minutes, January 10, 2015

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 10:15 by President Alan Bakalinsky.

Minutes from our last meeting (November 8) were approved as amended by email.

Treasurer's report was approved.

### **Lobbyist Report (CP)**

Legislature getting ready to convene. They briefly convene in January to set things up, recess, and then reconvene for ongoing work on February 2. We briefly discussed the legislative calendar, key deadlines, etc.

Kicker. The next (February) revenue forecast will be released Feb. 19. There is still a 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. There will be one more important revenue forecast on May 14 – this one will be key in determining the final amount to be allocated in the 2015-17 biennial budget.

Legislative Committees. Tobias Read will be chairing the House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development. Other key committees this session are the House Education, Joint Ways and Means, and Senate Education Committees.

Tuition remission bill, Shared services bill (legislative concepts). The tuition bill needs to include the proviso of allowing the remission to apply at any of the public universities, not just the home institution. This bill would be ready to inject in case we need it. We all acknowledge this is key for recruitment of faculty at all our institutions. We still hope that the institutions will agree to this continuation without legislation, but this is what we will do if we don't get them to agree. We also have drafted a Legislative Concept bill to mandate continuation of Shared Services six additional years (through 2021). SEIU is the primary sponsor on this; it applies specifically to risk management, employee benefits, and collective bargaining (where multiple universities have employees in the same bargaining unit).

Motion: We endorse the spirit of the Shared Services legislative concept bill. Passed.

Higher Education Rally. Tentatively scheduled for February 12 at the Capitol. OSA is leading the organization for this.

HECC Budget Allocation Planning. HECC its planning for budget and distribution formulae during the coming months, but details remain elusive and deadlines keep getting pushed back. Outcomes-based funding will be part of this. Chris discussed with us the Governor's recommended budget request for higher education. Good news – a 13% increase over 2013-15. Bad news – inflation-adjusted, this is still more than 25% below the 1999-2001 biennial allocation to OUS (!!!).

PERS. PERS Board has proposed forming an Employer Advising Group. We believe that if this is executed, then something like the PERS Coalition (i.e. an Employee Advising Group) ought to have a similarly formal relationship.

Outcomes-Based Funding. We looked at 2 page summary of the philosophy, goals, and direction of this as HECC will use it in the coming biennial budgeting process. We are still very concerned that academic quality will suffer if not specifically assessed, and this needs to directly involve faculty. One possibility is to use capstones/student

research as an indicator. Greg agreed to draft a letter outlining our concerns and positions about Outcomes-Based Funding. Our intended target audience would be the HECC Technical Work Group.

Community College tuition subsidy. This is a national movement as well as a statewide one. We have serious concerns that it will have the consequence of hurting enrollments at the public 4 year institutions. We suggest that this be modified to include a subsidy for 4 year school students.

### **Other Business**

Bulletin. The first roll out went pretty well. There were a few faculty for which we didn't have correct email addresses; Alan will work on that. Christian agreed to write the campus report for the Winter edition. Christian's deadline is March 1.

### **Campus Reports**

*UO (sent by email from Joe Lowndes):* There was a major graduate student strike here that lasted a week and a half, but it finally resolved. There has been a lot of fallout - in particular faculty who were asked to scab by the administration. There was a move by the UO Board to alter and undermine fundamental rules of faculty governance. This is an ongoing crisis which the faculty Senate is working hard to resolve. The faculty union goes into bargaining this month.

Also, I am preparing a memo to our Senate recommending that it be responsible for UO AOF representation. As it is now, I was given the position because of my union role. I am hoping that the Senate will appoint or elect a new representative to act on behalf of faculty (both union and non-union) in the AOF. My time has been absorbed by AFT-OR and AAUP OR as you know. I hope to work closely with whoever is chosen so that we can build a good working relationship.

*OSU (AB):* New football coach Gary Andersen (U of Wisconsin) replaced Mike Riley who took job at U of Nebraska. Enrollment now 29,000. Professional/administrative faculty have now received some salary enhancements to combat compression, and the next group to receive salary enhancements will be instructors. The faculty senate is restructuring its committees to assure representation by non-tenure track faculty, e.g., the faculty status committee. The faculty representative on the board is Brenda McComb, currently the Dean of the grad school. She had formerly been in the College of Forestry. Faculty senate president will have opportunity to present a short quarterly report. Debbie Colbert, Deputy Director for Administration for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been chosen to be Secretary of the Board, succeeding Meg Reeves, retiring General Counsel at OSU. The number of tuition remissions given to graduate students has dropped, which likely will lead to a reduction in graduate student enrollment. While many funding agencies pay graduate student tuition, some do not, and hence the need for a certain number tuition remissions--a form of university subsidy.

*PSU (JA):* A new Comic Studies degree is being developed. The administration is exploring "interest based bargaining" with the AAUP for the coming negotiations for their 2015-17 faculty collective bargaining agreement. There continues to be big controversy on arming the campus security folks. Despite faculty (and Senate opposition), the PSU Board has approved arming the Security personnel. There are now 31,000 students at PSU. Professional development funds are now tied to post-tenure review. AAUP Oregon continues working on organizing the faculty at OSU. Their annual meeting is April 25 at UO.

*SOU (KY):* Kemble has been named chief negotiator for the faculty union, and bargaining will open during spring quarter. We are celebrating our football team's recent national championship win. It is somewhat disquieting that shortly after, the Athletics Department announced the addition of two new sports (women's wrestling and men's soccer). Athletics largely avoided cuts in our retrenchment plan, and the plan pink-slipped approximately 12 full-time faculty. We will experience our second of three furlough days on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

*OIT (CV):* Hiring freeze still on. Salary compression still a concern. Another big concern is technology infrastructure & the university is allocating resources to alleviate this.

*EOU (DT and GM):* Enrollment drop is still a big issue, although an 11% drop was planned in budgeting this year, so there should not be adverse budget fallout this year. The search for a new President continues, although we will not know of potential candidates until sometime in April. In the draft bylaws for the new governance board, the university President is given the power to create and assign membership to all committees. It is recognized that the draft wording is “boilerplate,” and may change with feedback; faculty wish the finalized bylaws to reflect EOU’s current constitution’s strong stance on shared governance.

### **Next Meetings**

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.