

AOF Board Minutes, September 19, 2015

Present: Kemble Yates, Jacqueline Arante, Alan Bakalinsky, Christian Vukasovich, and DeAnna Timmermann.
Chris Parta, AOF Lobbyist.

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

The minutes from the May 19 meeting were read and approved.

Kemble delivered a Treasurer's report. He stressed that we really need to do a sustained membership drive.

Lobbyist Report (CP)

Chris shared with us a legislative report on the 2015 session.

One concern raised relating to the Shared Services bill (which actually is irrelevant!) is the "Cadillac tax" in the federal Affordable Care Act, which is slated to kick in in 2017-18. PEBB plans would qualify to be taxed. Incidentally, SEIU just settled on 3-year contract, ending in 2017. The Shared Services bill (HB 2611) did pass, and holds through 2021.

The bills concerning staffing ratios and health benefits for part-time employees were combined, and watered down to a task force to make a future recommendation. Chris believes there is weight to these issues, and is optimistic legislation may pass in 2016 or 2017.

HECC funding – did increase significantly over 2013-15 biennium, but still inadequate. A total of \$665M was allocated to HECC on behalf of the public 4-year universities. Chris also shared a preliminary breakdown of what each of the seven public universities received. The allocations are in two parts, the Student Success and Completion Model (SSCM; successor to RAM) and Shared Services (which primarily offsets the TRU's burden caused by the dissolution of OUS).

The SSCM increases from the 2013-15 biennium for each campus are: EOU 9.9%, OIT 11.3%, OSU 13.1%, PSU 25.1%, SOU 10.5%, UO 18.4%, and WOU 20.8%.

The total increases (which include the Shared Services component) from the 2013-15 biennium for each campus are: EOU 19.0%, OIT 18.9%, OSU 13.1%, PSU 25.1%, SOU 20.7%, UO 18.4%, and WOU 28.0%.

We decided we will draft a letter for HECC to encourage them to more fairly fund partnerships amongst universities, and not only reward the university which awards the final degree.

Chris reminded us that he remains active in the Higher Education Coalition. This includes AOF, OSA, AFT, AAUP-Oregon, AAUP-PSU, OEA, and SEIU.

We took a long look at the version of the "Oregon Promise" bill that passed the last day of the legislative session (\$10M). It buttresses aid to community college students. We expressed concern that this aid ought to be available to starting students at 4-year schools as well.

There is a new Education advisor to Governor Brown, Lindsey Capps. Chris will try to connect some of us with him soon.

We briefly discussed the upcoming legislative calendar for the February 2016 short session.

Kicker. The (final) kick figure is down a little (to a little over 400M\$).

Dr. Veronica Dujon has been hired by HECC to replace Salam Noor as its Director for Academic Planning and Policy. That is, she will be the lead at HECC in overseeing new program proposals and evaluation of institutions. Chris will check to see if she can meet with us.

From PERS: the assumed earnings rate was lowered again from 7.75% to 7.5%, and they as well approved new actuarial assumptions for people living longer. This will also cause an increase in the employer contribution rate going forward, but these changes should not occur until the 2019-21 biennium.

Newsletter

We'll shoot for a Fall newsletter by November 1 and a Spring newsletter sometime in April. Jacqueline agreed to put together a campus report from Portland State University for the Fall newsletter. Alan and Kemble will work to get the help we need to assemble and distribute the newsletter.

We also briefly discussed Alan's documents and plans for the AOF table at OSU's University Day on Sept. 21.

We discussed the role and value of AOF going forward into the post-OUS world. Alan, Jacqueline, and DeAnna will share their notes to summarize the discussion. Our goal is to draft a statement which describes the unique value of AOF and clearly distinguishes it from other groups that represent faculty. The statement will then be shared with the entire board for further refinement and used as a recruiting tool.

Campus Reports

OSU (AB)

Faculty union organizing drive now ongoing at OSU.

EOU (DT)

EOU was recently awarded a federal TRIO grant, which should help them recruit and retain underserved student populations. EOU does now have a new President, Tom Insko. The fund balance has improved from a slight negative number to something like a 7% fund balance, which is certainly good news.

SOU (KY)

The Board of Trustees recently entertained a motion to extend interim President Saigo's term. Currently it would end in summer 2016; the proposal is to extend to summer 2017. The board also considered a proposal to add two more sports; athletics has run a cumulative \$1M deficit to the general fund over the last three years. Negotiations for the faculty union continue. The faculty are asking for a 5% inflation to their floor schedule each year, the SEIU-equivalent language on health benefits, significant language changes around loading/overload, more security for contingent faculty, language guaranteeing compensation or release for chair/coordinator duties, and the adoption of a sick leave "bank" similar to WOU's. Administration wants a 3 year contract, major concessions on Retrenchment procedures, and serious givebacks on early retirement incentives. To date, no new (or replacement) tenure-track or indefinite professional track searches have been authorized. The fund balance is now over 9%.

PSU (JA)

Key issues this year: a task force is working on a coordinated statement on academic quality; there may be modifications to post-tenure review and associated remuneration; AAUP is in negotiations; negotiations have led to tentative agreement on how to construct a "sick leave bank"; and there is an effort to organize the graduate students into a union. PSU is contemplating cutting summer school altogether as it has been declining steadily over the last few years.

OIT (CV)

Enrollments are down. Looking at a 2.25%/year salary increases. Budget news not good for OIT, nor do they benefit in the new funding model from HECC. There's a clear push to grow the non-tenure track faculty ranks, and push for growth in (mostly in online programs). They are also adding a few targeted graduate programs. Faculty are worried OIT is in an unsustainable overload model.

Next Meetings

We will tentatively meet on December 5 and/or January 23, depending on the activity that emerges at the Legislative Days in mid-November.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.