

AOF Board Minutes, January 23, 2016

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.

Lobbyist Report (CP)

Chris announced he'll be screening "LC bills" for the February session, and sending us each some to review. Key dates: session starts Feb. 1, bills must be scheduled for committee review by Feb. 5 (or they die), next revenue forecast Feb. 10, first work session on a bill must occur by Feb. 11, second work session on a bill must occur by Feb. 23, and "Sine Die" on March 6. One big piece of legislation will be the Governor's minimum wage proposal which will likely at least be voted upon (and is an attempt to ward off several competing ballot measures on this). March 8 is deadline for filing for office. Most of the issues *we* care about (PERS, higher ed funding) plus transportation will be pushed to the 2017 session. Cap & trade may also be in the mix for 2017.

There will be a higher ed summit on April 2.

We reviewed the membership and leadership of key Senate and House committees for the February 2016 session.

We looked at the HECC reports on EOU and SOU. Another report for each institution will be required at the end of 2016.

We scanned through a presentation the 7 universities made at the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education. This was a report on some funds given in the 2015 session, and also a framing of the key budget issues for the 2017-19 budget (e.g. building a realistic Current Service Level (CSL) funding model).

We also skimmed through a report to the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education on the "Oregon Promise" plan (aka "free community college" for Oregon residents). They believe that \$10 M per year will pay for it.

We next looked at a HECC executive summary report to the legislature (via SB 113) on how hours for part-time faculty are tracked (or not!). The underlying premise is that ultimately employers need to have some responsibility for paying for (especially health care) benefits. This may ultimately lead to a bill in the 2017 session.

PERS – through Greg Monahan: Oregon Public Retirees Incorporated (OPRE) will be sharing some interesting poll results with the PERS Coalition, and working the legislators (and candidates) to educate them on what they should and should not do in upcoming legislative sessions.

We also looked at a bill concept for an Oregon-run student loan refinancing plan. This bill would authorize a study of the feasibility of this concept. Basic idea: Oregon pays off high interest loans, and then becomes the creditor at a lower interest rate for students.

Motion: AOF officially endorses this bill and this concept. After brief discussion, this motion passed unanimously.

We then brought up the "Better Oregon" bill to fund schools and services by raising the corporate minimum tax.

Motion: AOF officially endorse passage of this bill. In essence, the bill would mean that corporations having Oregon sales of \$25 M or more would have a minimum tax of 2.5% on gross revenues. It would raise approximately \$5 B more per biennium. After a spirited discussion, we passed this unanimously.

Newsletter

We'll shoot for a Winter/Spring newsletter by April 4. Kemble agreed to put together a campus report from Southern Oregon University. Alan and Kemble will work to get the help we need to assemble and distribute the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Kemble gave a sobering report on the state of AOF's finances. First, he reported that he misread the due date for our tax return, and it was filed thirty days late. We may face a \$681 fine for this but he was told by the IRS that an appeal (which he has already filed) will very likely get this charge dropped.

Second, we have a new bank account with Bank of America, and will be transitioning to yet another bank account in the next couple of months.

Third, we discussed that our gradually declining membership is imperiling our ability to meet current expenses. Kemble suggested we need to reduce our expenses, and decide if we can engage in a successful membership drive. Chris Parta signaled a willingness to work with AOF both in the short run and the long run to keep AOF viable. Kemble, Alan, and Chris will discuss this further, and we will all look at efforts to increase membership (where possible), and other alternatives.

Motion: To reduce our travel subsidy from \$0.45/mile to \$0.25/mile, and to eliminate the \$20 per meeting lunch subsidy. Passed, with 1 abstention.

Campus Reports

OSU (AB) New positions to address "social justice", "diversity", and "racism". Translation = 3 new positions. All faculty just got a 3% raise, and will get another in January, 2017.

PSU (JA) Now officially completely retired (!). Senate has set up a task force to study in "Professors of Practice" (all teaching and service, no research, no tenure). Seen a big increase in out-of-state students. Campus security has added firearm carrying police.

EOU (DT) Hiring a new HR Director (again). Fund balance is now up to 8.2% (a big improvement). Search for new Provost underway. President is trying to address "climate" issues between faculty and staff. Student newspaper – changing from faculty advisor to a staff person – concerns of it being co-opted. Recently added wrestling.

OIT (CV) President Chris Maples has been seeking other jobs, but so far has not secured one. He wants another 5 year term. Serious concerns about shared governance, especially as to how the Wilsonville campus interacts with the Klamath Falls campus.

SOU (KY)

1) Union CBA settlement – ratified as of today.

- a. Salaries: (2/2.5%, 2.75%, 3.5%)
- b. Workload: 45 ELU (9 research & service) for tenure-track faculty, some addl loading for heavy advising and large classes
- c. Reduced from "3 to 3" to "2 to 2" the years temporary faculty can fill open positions and then a plan can take to resolve the opening.
- d. Increased PDA for faculty from \$1250/yr to \$1375/yr (for tenure eligible faculty) and \$750/yr to \$875/yr.

- e. Retrenchment: laid off faculty would now get 3 (from 2) years of recall rights; also opportunity to avail themselves of early retirement incentives
- 2) Presidential politics (Rep. Buckley is a possible candidate!)
- 3) \$2.5 M BOLI settlement (apparently won't affect fund balance)
- 4) Initiative to hire and "regularize" faculty appointments
- 5) Union grievance on past loading malfeasance
- 6) Diversity -- Title 9 issues – new policies formed without Senate participation.
- 7) "Professor of Practice" officially dropped by Faculty Senate

Next Meeting

April 16, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.