

AOF Board Minutes, April 16, 2016

Present: Alan Bakalinsky, Kemble Yates, Jacqueline Arante, Greg Monahan, DeAnna Timmermann, and Tim Thompson. Chris Parta from PartaOregon, Inc., was also present.

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

Treasurer's Report (KY):

Kemble reported we are on track to make budget, given Chris' generous agreement to accept a \$1000/mo reduction for four months over the summer. We also have received a rescission of our \$800 fine from the IRS for the late filing of our 2014-15 tax return.

Lobbyist Report (CP):

Chris discussed a very packed February legislative session. The "lead" highlights were a bill to increase minimum wages (SB 1532) and a carbon reduction energy bill. Many other bills died, partly due to Republican slow down activity and somewhat to Senate leadership decisions. Chris also gave each of us an AOF legislative report which gives a rundown of all of the bills we tracked. We also were informed of several capital allotments to the campuses, including funds for OIT, PSU, and SOU projects.

Some highlights: a bill (HB 4021) authorizing a study of the feasibility of an Oregon-run program for student loan refinancing was passed. HB 4076, a bill to add support services for students in the pilot "Oregon Promise" program, which offers very low cost community college education to Oregon high school graduates, passed. A bill (HJR 203/HB4092) authorizing universities to invest in stocks as part of their portfolios with some constraints, passed. Because this is a Constitutional amendment, it will be on the ballot in November. SB 1558 passed and adds privacy protections for student health information. SB1586, a bill easing registration and voting for (especially) students, passed with some amendments.

PERS was an issue, and none of the noxious bills or policies went through. But PERS and the increased employer costs looming will be huge in the 2017 legislative session.

Looking ahead to this election cycle and the next (2017) legislative session... There will be a BIG turnover in the legislature, especially in the House. We discussed some of the people moving in and out of the legislature. Chris will be developing some recommendations for AOF on OFPAC contributions. We will likely be giving relatively less for the primary cycle, and a little more for the fall general election.

We took a brief look at the HECC five year Strategic Plan. Of course a key component of this is the strategy of gradually escalating the percentage of its funding tied to graduation/outcomes-based incentives. The university Presidents, through their self-created moniker Oregon Public University Council (OPUC), sent a letter to HECC declaring the need for a 15%/\$100M increase in funding for the 2017-19 biennium.

The recent 4-4 US Supreme Court decision on the "fair share" repeal is a big win for public employee unions. However, this may well come back some year. Also, there are two ballot initiatives coming in Oregon (petitions 62 and 69) this fall. Chris will send us exact text of these measures. We will vote by email on whether on not to officially oppose these measures.

Another big measure is IP 28 which would increase minimum taxes on corporations doing a minimum of \$25M gross revenue in Oregon. We have endorsed this and it would clearly make a positive impact on Oregon's revenue stream going forward.

PEBB has announced that its premium rates will be increasing at a higher rate (5-10%) than anticipated.

PERS: Due to the Oregon Supreme Court Moro decision and the performance of the stock market, the unfunded liability is projected to be in the \$15.1-16.1 B after 2016. The Legislative Fiscal Office released a report steeling the state for some difficult decisions regarding how to fund the PERS obligations and increases to employer contribution rates. The PERS Coalition has decided to hire some help for messaging and polling.

Greg, Jacqueline, and Chris attended the Higher Education Summit (whose participants included SEIU, OEA, OSA, and several individual university faculty groups) at its meeting in Eugene on April 2. The group is drafting a joint statement, and intends to be active going forward through the election cycle and the 2017 legislative session.

AOF Future

One possible future for AOF is to morph its membership and activity into AAUP-Oregon (the non-union branch of AAUP). A subcommittee of us may meet with AAUP-Oregon folks, perhaps early this summer, to explore this option.

Another option for AOF is to pursue the “OPRI tactic” of focusing a membership drive through our OFPAC. To pursue this we need to get lists of faculty names from all 8 Oregon universities, preferably with middle initials, and associated institutions. **Motion:** Kemble hire a student to get all of these names & get them to Greg Monahan. Passed unanimously.

Campus Reports

Suppressed due to time.

Next Meeting

We agreed to have a phone conference on May 25, 5-7 PM (Wed), meet next (tentatively) on Sept. 1, 10 AM, Thursday.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.