

AOF Board Minutes, July 21, 2017

Present: Alan Bakalinsky (a little late), Kemble Yates, Jacqueline Arante, Greg Monahan, and Deanna Thompson. Chris Parta from PartaOregon, Inc., was also present.

Meeting was called to order at 12:15 by Vice-President Greg Monahan.

Lobbyist Report (CP):

Chris shared a 2017 legislative report with us. He shared some general perspectives...

Chris predicts there will not be a special session on revenue, nor is it likely that a big revenue package will move in the February, 2018 session.

Overall, policy-wise, most of the “bad” policies died and some of the positive policy pieces were passed.

HB 3170 (PECBA) passed which extends bargaining rights to certain categories of higher education faculty/employees. Also, SB 214 extends retirement benefits to a category of post-doctoral faculty.

The “cultural competency” bill (HB 2864) was amended and passed. This was a high priority for OSA. It is now much less intrusive than the original bill.

Unfortunately, SB 196 did not get through – which would have expanded health care benefits to more adjunct faculty. Basically, the fiscal impact (est. to be \$40 M) killed it. Realistically, while this is still a high priority for us, it will have to wait until the next biennium.

PERS... Most of the more obnoxious “reforms” failed. Republicans would not accept the idea that the price for any reforms was a revenue package. Of course this means that the unfunded liability problem only compounds for the next biennium. The one “constructive” outcome was the formation of a task force to try to find ways to squeeze savings out of the state budget to reduce the liability.

On the health care (PEBB) front, the bill that would have combined PEBB and OEGB died (though their administrative structure WILL be combined). However, there is a provision in SB 1067 (which did pass) has some potentially problematic provisions like the statutorily-mandated limit of 3.4% annual increase to state employee costs. There are also caps on hospital reimbursement rates, and prohibits double coverage. Of course the other big news was the “provider tax” which passed – and of course there has been the threat this might be referred to the voters.

On bills directed toward collective bargaining/union rights, a lot of bad bills died (e.g. mandated public bargaining, public “referral” rights, etc.).

Transfer credits (HB 2998 and SB 207) – both passed. One concerns AP credits, the other mandates community colleges and public universities to work harder to create more uniform transfer/articulation policies.

Big progress! 40-40-20 was clarified to apply to *adult* Oregonians, not all Oregonians.

Regarding the Oregon Promise, the \$10M cap is gone, but other limits do now exist (e.g. higher income students no longer eligible, does not apply to continuing students). The final budget allocated was \$40M.

Budgets for higher education: the final figure for PUSF (Public University Support Fund) was \$736.8 M, which is \$44M above current service. Also, the Oregon Opportunity Grants budget was \$146M.

The bill to add a faculty member to OHSU's board, and the one mandating both a graduate student and an undergraduate student to the Institutional Boards, failed.

Potential coming ballot measures/referrals:

SEIU will put another Measure 97-like measure out for increasing revenue.

OEA will put up a Constitutional amendment to eliminate super majority clauses for revenue increases.

The board heartily thanked Chris for his good work during the legislative session.

We briefly looked at the interim calendar, and important dates leading up to the Feb. 5 five week session. We will have to do a massive review bills over the weekend of Feb. 2-4.

Oct. 7 is the tentative date for a higher education coalition summit – probably on OSU campus.

Treasurer's Report

Motion: To authorize Kemble, Alan, and Chris to negotiate a one- or preferably two-year contract based on our reduced revenues. Passed unanimously.

Campus Reports [suppressed due to time]

Next Meeting

- 1) Video conference on Oct. 3, 3 PM (approx. 90 minutes)
- 2) Video conference on Nov. 30, 4:30 PM (approx. 90 minutes)
- 3) Live meeting Jan. 27, 10-1, at PSU.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.