

## AOF Board Minutes, April 7, 2018

Present: Alan Bakalinsky, Kemble Yates, Jacqueline Arante, Greg Monahan, Christian Vukasovich, and Deanna Timmermann. Chris Parta from PartaOregon, Inc., was also present.

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 by President Alan Bakalinsky

### Lobbyist Report (CP):

The short session ended with no real bad results for faculty interests.

HB 4141 passed, with amendments, and we supported it. This is the bill that mandates tuition advisory boards – basically it puts controls on tuition increases of more than 3% (and more controls on raises greater than 5%). Universities will be required to provide a series of required information/justifications to the HECC on any tuition increase greater than 3%.

SB 1563 DACA protections passed, and again we supported this bill.

SB 1520 Reporting Ratios Requirements bill passed, again we supported it. We particularly cared about Section 12, which puts certain dates for reporting ratios of front line folks (faculty and staff) to administrative employees, plus average salaries. We hope this will be an effective tool in challenging administrative bloat.

Several PERS-related bills (SB 1566, 1561, HB 4046, 4070, 4131) were presented in session. SB 1566 and HB 4046 were reasonable and passed; the rest were bad bills for us and they failed. One authorizes side accounts, incited by state funding. Also, HB 4046 clarified which compensation by faculty would count for PERS calculations. (We were originally concerned, for example, that grant funded compensation paid through the university payroll system *wouldn't* count for PERS calculations; this bill clarifies that it *will*.)

HB 4005 passes – again with our support – which requires drug manufacturers to report to Oregon if price increases more than 10%. Meanwhile, HB 4071 failed – which is good. This bill would have adversely affected public employee health plans in Oregon. In short it would have avoided the “Cadillace tax” by creating a “Yugo plan” for public employees. HJR 203 – which would have constitutionally established a right to healthcare in Oregon – did fail. This is of course a noble idea, but it included no funding mechanism and – in this form – would have been a huge unfunded mandate.

SB 1524 Republicans’ “Right to Work” bill thankfully never even got out of committee.

HB 4053 This bill passed and requires reporting on transfer articulation, particularly of HS advanced credits/dual degree programs.

SJR 201 failed, thank goodness. This would have been a disaster as it would have required the supermajority criteria for tax increases to extend to any and all fee increases. But ALERT: this is likely coming as an Initiative!

HB 4001/SB1507 The “Cap & Trade” bills. This was bill was seen as too large and complex of a policy for this short session, but there is a strong priority for Democrats in the 2019 session.

HB 4155 Originally a “net neutrality” bill, passed, but with many amendments. It didn’t (as originally crafted) prohibit companies from discriminating how it allows access to the Internet, but it does prohibit any public entity in the state from contracting with any company that *does* do this.

... and congratulations to Eastern Oregon University – it is now officially “Oregon’s Rural University”! (None of us know what this means...)

Thoughts about the coming year and next year’s session. First, May 15 is the primary. August 29 is the next revenue forecast. And right after the general election on Nov 6, the more important revenue forecast comes on Nov 14. Looking to 2019: the Legislature plans on scheduling sine die two weeks early (mid-June) and correspondingly start things a little earlier in January.

Elections... Phil Barnhart (D) is retiring. The Hood River district (52) could flip D. And Alan DeBoer ( R) is likely not going to run again for Senate, so the D’s have a decent chance to flip that seat. Debbie Boone (D) (north Oregon coast) is retiring, and this will be an interesting primary. Jeff Kruse ( R ) is retiring. ... Other changes also coming; Chris will send a more complete list. We will likely need to have an OFPAC meeting in mid-June to make donation decisions.

Budget update: GF \$2.15 B increase biennial projection, but probably still not enough to cover the major health and PERS costs.

### **Treasurer Report**

Kemble shared the current state of our finances. We are on track with our budget plan for 2018-19. Kemble, Alan, and Chris did agree to and sign a contract for PartaOregon, Inc. for lobbying services through August, 2019.

### **Newsletter**

We hope to get this out this month. Greg will be writing a vice president report. Chris will write a legislative report. And Alan will be writing a campus report. Jacqueline will write a piece for the newsletter.

### **Campus Reports**

OSU: The unionization effort is now public, and underway. The university is increasingly playing a partisan role to oppose the effort.

MOTION: We use the list provided by OSU’s organizers to help distribute our newsletter. Amended: We will consult with the organizers about the timing of the distribution. Motion passed unanimously.

EOU: Deanna reported that the EOU Board will vote in May to commit EOU to an online “partnership” with Pearson’s OPM. This would align them to give 50% - 60% of their online tuition in return for marketing, course development, etc. The faculty are up in arms. Also, EOU will begin bargaining their next CBA in early 2019.

SOU: Kemble Also, the faculty union (APSOU) has named its negotiating team –Kemble will be on the team but not chief this time. The SOU Faculty Senate will be voting on (hopefully down) an administratively-planted Bylaws amendment which would make it easier to find faculty performance “unsatisfactory” (as determined by post tenure review), and thus begin personnel processes that can lead up to a faculty member’s dismissal.

OIT: Relations between faculty and administration are very poor now. One “initiative” is to move towards removing tenure line appointments. A unionization effort is well underway. Brian Fox, OIT VP for Finance and Administration, has been a particular thorn in the faculty’s side. A “no confidence” vote by the faculty for the President is being contemplated. There have also been serious conflicts with the new HR Director. Christian announced that he will be leaving OIT at the end of this academic year, but he has found a replacement for himself – Matt Sleep.

PSU: PSU has a relatively new President, who will soon be going through an Investiture ceremony. Provost is now gone, in some part due to a grievance related to intellectual property rights. Jacqueline reported that the Faculty Senate will be adding a senator to represent part-time faculty; this position will be appointed (!). A task force recommended against attaching tenure to any of the “Professor of Practice”-like positions. The Senate asked the task force to keep working on this. Enrollment is flat, and this is creating a revenue gap of approximately ~\$10M.

### **Next Meeting**

Phone conference W, June 20, 3 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM.