

AOF Board Minutes

March 8, 2008

Present were President Marie Vitulli (UO), Vice-President Steve Gibbons (WOU), Tim Thompson (OIT), Greg Monahan (EOU), Tim Thompson (OIT), Jacqueline Arante (PSU) and Bob Becker (OSU).
Also present: Mark Nelson, Erica Hagedorn, and Karen Mainzer.

President Marie Vitulli called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

The minutes of our February meeting were approved without amendment.

Treasurer's Report: We are 83 percent through the year and have collected 80 percent of our revenues. Our budgeting is right on target, mainly due to the funds from the PERS case settlement funds.

Campus reports—

UO (MV)

- Ongoing concerns about the finances and cost of new basketball arena.
- Collective bargaining is on hold for the moment as other issues are sequestering the extra time the organizers have on campus.

OSU (BB)

- The administration is concentrating on new programs.
- There is talk of \$4 million in General Fund being spent on the athletic department.
- The capital campaign is going well, and some on the faculty senate are arguing that some of that money should be reserved for faculty salaries in light of the "administration tax" that is sometimes skimmed off the top of donations.

OIT (TT)

- There is notice of 12 unfilled positions and four new programs, however these are mostly funded through shifting staff and funds into the new programs and closing the old ones.
- The university has two brand new positions over last year.
- OIT has one of the highest percentage of tenure or tenure-track faculty, which it cannot sustain.
- The renewable energy engineering programs in Portland are growing.
- OIT will have a new comparator group by May thanks to persistence from the Faculty Compensation Committee.

EOU (GM)

- The university may increase administrator salaries, but the union is watching that carefully.
- There are no new positions to report.
- Enrollment is up 3 percent from the previous winter term
- The Arts and Sciences may remain at EOU after conducting a job search.
- Greg relayed the on-campus drama related to the threat from a disgruntled expelled student.

WOU (SG)

- The university hired a new provost from Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.
- Enrollment is up 148 students from last year, for a total of 5037 students, of which 20 percent are underrepresented minorities.
- Applications are up 13 percent from last year.
- New positions were discussed, but SG will check on replacements versus brand new positions.

PSU (JA)

- The university added a new BFA in Visual Arts in the School of Performing Arts.
- The university is near the end of its presidential search.
- The provost has announced 23 new positions, 10 of which are in the new sustainability program.
- University Studies is converting three positions in its department to tenure-track.
- The provost announced that the \$10 million for faculty salaries is being sequestered by the Ways and Means Committee until June, which would have provided a 1 percent across-the-board raise for all PSU faculty.
- Bargaining has been slow as the university has issued its last, best offer. It is also working with a consultant who hasn't been helping the process. The administration is pointing to the March Revenue Forecast as a roadblock for raises.
- The AFT's unit of part-time faculty settled with the administration for 5+5, but it is not retroactive.

Executive Director Report (Mark Nelson) --

The February session adjourned a week early. The final phase of the OIT Center for Health Professions and the 30-year UO arena bonds were both funded.

Because of the dismal March Revenue Forecast, the Ways and Means Committee [In the interim, this entity is called the Emergency Board] is holding the \$125 million for the public employee 3+3.2 COLA until June. The \$10 million for faculty salaries was already appropriated and is not being held in these funds. The OUS share of the \$125 million is somewhere between \$25-28 million, and it must be spread between classified and unclassified employees. The OUS has already indicated that it is going to distribute 1/3 of the \$10 million this year, and the other 2/3 next year. We believe the money is distributed quarterly from OUS to campuses.

The OUS is considering legislation for 2009 that would roll student fees into student tuition. This was an issue that the OSA raised with Sen. Walker in 2007, because student loans would not cover unexpectedly large fees.

AOF is going to issue several public records requests to campuses for data. Mark also discussed his conversation with Jock Mills regarding the OSU Faculty Salary Report.

The recently published OUS legislative concepts did not include disconnecting the ORP from PERS, but we will continue to monitor the OUS Board.

PERS litigation: Judge Kantor has promised to issue a judgment clarification in the Arken and Robinson cases. The White case has been scheduled for trial on August 4-6.

Other PERS: We discussed the PERS contingency reserves. The Tier One earnings are being reduced from 8 percent to 7.97 percent in order to cover PERS' attorneys fees. The group decided to be neutral on the PERS suggestion that 403b plan contributions are counted as salary because it's additional income from the administration.

Membership: Karen will have a draft of the spring solicitation letter ready next week. The UO letter did not solicit any responses or reaction.

Other Business: Marie and Mark indicated that Sen. Vicki Walker had contacted them both about supporting her in her race for the Secretary of State. Because this is a PAC issue, the Walker

endorsement consideration will take place at the next OFPAC meeting. However, the group acknowledged that AOF has never considered endorsing candidates for statewide office.

Future meetings: April 12, May 10

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM