The committee met three times this school year (minutes are attached as appendices 1-3). Per its charge representatives of the office of Governmental Affairs informed the committee about relevant legislative and political issues as they related to the University.

One issue considered in multiple meetings was the future of the committee. Discussion began regarding whether the committee was necessary or if technology allowed other means of distributing information from the office of Governmental Affairs. Discussion also began regarding whether or not the charge or purpose of the committee might be modified to make it more integral to the Senate and timely in its work. This will be a continuing point of discussion in 2013-2014 under the leadership of the new chair, Professor Alan Loper.

Respectfully submitted by

Sarah K. Fields, JD, PhD
Chair of Governmental Affairs (2012-2013)
Appendix 1

Governmental Affairs Minutes
10/2/12
1 p.m.

1. Introductions

2. Issues regarding politicking on campus. Colleen O’Brien provided handouts and explicated that political discussion in class was limited to relevant classes and employees need to draw a bright line between being an individual and a state employee. Equal time in appropriate classes and at events.

3. Pension: Colleen O’Brien reported that STRS and OPERS reforms are done—now it’s about informing constituencies and helping them make decisions. July 1, 2013 is the change date for COLAs in STRS. PERS will be variable COLA. No state law governing retiring and then getting rehired. 70% of regular faculty eligible to retire. Beginning to figure out plan to handle exodus of faculty and staff to retirement. STRS is also kind of phased in to minimize mass exodus.

4. Sequestration: Stacey Rastauskas and Dick Stoddard phoned in from Washington DC to report on meetings on the topic. More optimistic that something might get done. Some bipartisan support. Staffers and members committed but it’s going to be hard.

   Avoid fiscal cliff and focus on benefits for the long term. May still have cuts to many areas, but members and leadership understand that to continue economic recovery we need a growth agenda meaning need R&D and transportation dollars and federal investment. OSU is part of that.

   Don’t curtail growth—knowing that we need to address budget and taxes. Nothing by Nov. 8 but groundwork laid for lame duck session action through Christmas.

   OSU reps focus on student aid and research and prioritize lobbying on those fronts and how that helps economic recovery.

   Agencies are beginning quiet discussions about how to handle sequestration should it occur. OMB sent out an “operate in a standard mode” memo.

   NIH and NFS priority on new awardees and not just continuing funding the folks who have long been funded. Those making decisions are the agency reps who are often trained in our fields.

   More political pressure to take care of budget and debt ceiling.

5. Meeting Adjourned
Appendix 2

Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting
2/27/2013

1. Introductions

2. Publishing minutes
   Agreed to use minutes as report for University Senate

3. Updates from Governmental Affairs Office
   • State budget moving forward—at least level funding but still a work in progress.
   • Workload provision for faculty (permissive rather than mandatory option by Board of Trustees) added by governor’s office.
   • Federal side: Sequestration starts Friday 3/1 but really hits March 27. No one knows how cuts will be implemented. Continuing Resolution funding budget ends 3/27 and temp budget ends then. Slow down of federal government until 3/27 then it shuts down because no budget. All but essential services stop unless there is a new CR funding the government.

4. Future of Governmental Affairs Committee
   • Discussion on role of committee and how better to disseminate information and to give GAO input and feedback.
   • Discussion of role of Faculty Leaders and how that group could and has replaced Committee in terms of input and disseminating information.
   • Agreement to begin process of disbanding committee. Chair will explore process.

5. Other Business—updates regarding Undergraduate activities
   • March 5 Legislative Brunch with Undergrad students—need more students to participate
   • Proposal for Freshman contract (2-4 year lock on tuition)
   • Issue with area housing quality
   • Students support funding tie to graduation rates
   • April 9-11 DC trip
   • Other proposed legislation or ideas for legislation

6. Adjourn
Appendix 3

Governmental Affairs Meeting
4/12/13

Updates:

State Budget has been introduced.
- Republican version has 2 of governor’s 5 priority points.
- Tax reform package removed largely. As originally written, impact on OSU unclear.
- Medicaid expansion as part of Affordable Care Act has been removed. OSU continues to lobby in favor of it—the Medical School and Hospitals support it.
- Funding formula for state institutions has bipartisan support and additional gap money for those campuses who might have lost funding under new formula (including Ag Tech Institute in Wooster)
- Sea Grant Program funding reinstated.
- John Glenn earmark money has been reinstated.
- Distance Learning Clearinghouse (originally state entity but now under OSU purview).
- Food Ag and Environmental Sciences funding lines got 3% increase in House of Representatives
- Ohio College Opportunity Grant (need based financial aid): $40M to public/$40M to private (award amounts don’t match up because more students in public schools). Goal was to move closer to student-based ratio rather than sector-based ratio. Not yet successful but will continue pushing forward.
- Faculty Teaching Load proposal removed from budget.
- College Credit Plus Program (taking college classes while in high school) has been removed but may be reintroduced.

Federal side: encouraging signs of cooperation of bipartisanship on gun control, immigration, budget, etc.
- Sequestration is here for at least a while but bipartisan support for student financial aid and research funding.

Local politics:
- Mayor effectively stopped search for new CMH school superintendent indicating increased governmental involvement. Little engagement prior but an indication that the Education Commission matters—no hire until Commission makes report. John Stanford is interim Superintendent designee. Commission report comes out in April and could suggest significant changes (teachers/principal/leadership assignment; neighborhood and school choice). President Gee on Mayor’s commission.
Future of Committee
- Appointed: 2 new members (Tiffany Wild (T&L); Neil Hooker (Glenn School))
- Consider evolution of committee: perhaps work with local politics especially regarding local schools and reputation
- Consider governance broadly and more deeply and how purpose of committee might change/evolve

Selection of New Chair: Prof. Alan Loper

Adjourned