

Report of Legislative Affairs Committee

Reporting Date: 10/17/2000

UA Faculty Senate

Margaret Garner

On October 3rd Rep. Tim Parker met with several members of the LAC to discuss the upcoming challenges for the legislative session and the next budget cycle for the University. Rep. Parker seems to believe that our task is very tough. Now that Hubbard has won on 204, he will be addressing more requests of the ETF so we once again can expect battles. He stated that we must be more aggressive in the future. We need to take more and full advantage of the resources that we do have, from faculty and staff all the way to the BOT, as well as the students and alumni. Scott Bridges led a discussion of the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of our resources. Many of our strengths are also our weaknesses because we are still so new to this kind of effort. But everyone agrees that we have made a good start on the part of our faculty, staff and student involvement. All agree that we need to continue to build and all agreed that we need much more visible effort from our alumni (being implemented now) and our Board of Trustees who are very influential. Our major threat is admittedly AEA with its strong membership and dollars for campaign support. All further agreed that we must aggressively grow the Higher Education Partnership and the UAS PAC.

Bill Jones brought a draft document of our legislative plan for this year's activities (copy on the senate web site). Some of these efforts are already underway, being carried out under the UAS leadership, especially the collection of data. This draft is a compilation of recommendations from the meetings this summer of statewide legislative liaisons, the UAS legislative liaisons, presidents and Chancellor. Comments and suggestions are encouraged. It is clearly a living document, he reports.

As faculty we must win the political issue: " Where do the Gov. and the legislature stand on higher education funding for 2001?" Legislators must understand that as faculty we are 44th in the nation and 12th in the region in regard to salaries. This is a non-competitive position.

Clearly our best goal is to secure a 2:1 funding split of the new monies. And as stated before our other goals are: growing our relationships with the alumni in the state, building a supportive relationship with the business community in lobbying for Higher Education, and finally promoting strong growth of the Higher Education Partnership and the UA System PAC.

An upcoming meeting is an important opportunity for you to talk with Rep. Howard Hawk who is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. He will meet with the faculty senate, members of the Legislative Agenda Committee and any faculty or staff member who is interested on November 17th for a breakfast meeting either at the Bryant Conference Center or the Four Points Hotel. Will let you know details later. PLEASE make plans to attend and RSVP to Linda

Knowles of your plans so that we will have a count for the food.

As new business, I am recommending that this date be considered a voluntary Faculty Senate Meeting .