

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, May 25, 2017  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

**I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on May 25 by President Diane Vukovich at 10:00am.**

**A. Others present included Bob Blankenship, Bob Gandee, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Velma Pomrenke, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas, Martha Vye, and Tom Vukovich.**

**B. Excused: Cathy Edwards, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler,**

**II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the April 27, 2017 meeting were approved as mailed.**

**III. Treasure's Report. Bob Blankenship reported a balance of \$6,681.03 for the month of April. The balance in April of 2016 was \$4,281.30. Bob also noted that Nathan Mortimer, VP for Finance has consistently picked up the \$150 room charge for our luncheons each month.**

**Neal Raber reported that the proceeds from the 50/50 raffle during 5 luncheons and the Lobster and Suds events yielded \$282.50 which has been added to our operating funds for the time being.**

**IV. Corresponding Secretary: Martha Vye reported that no messages have been sent over the last month but she encouraged everyone to email her over the summer if something comes up.**

**V. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs. Planning for next year's luncheon programs has already begun. Tom, Diane and Neal will meet soon with Aramark to set up menus keeping the costs the same.**

**Nathan Mortimer will only be able to waive half of the room charge for us this coming year, which means that the cost to AUAR will increase by \$75 each month. Tom suggested that we use the raffle proceeds to offset this increase along with raising the luncheon cost to \$14. After some discussion, Tom moved that we raise the luncheon cost to \$14 per person (soda will remain an extra charge) and use the raffle proceeds to subsidize the room charge assessed by the University. Neal seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, May 25, 2017  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

**I**We have reached a point where Tom and Diane need help with the monthly programming. The duties include 1) getting the speaker, 2) introducing the speaker at the luncheon, and 3) writing up a short summary of the program for the Newsletter. After some discussion it was decided to split up the luncheon months (6 luncheons---September, October, November, February, March, and April) among the board members. At this point in time the fall luncheon speakers are already set. Dan Sheffer volunteered to do one in the spring but needed to check his calendar. At the next Board meeting, the month assignments will be decided.

**Tom and Diane will continue to handle the Special Events as well as the Holiday Luncheon in December. They will also take care of setting up the luncheon menus with Aramark.**

**Special Events:** Tom Vukovich reported that purchasing our food from other venues for the Lobster and Suds event was much more cost effective. The chicken cost was less than \$100 and Aramark was charging us \$308! Diane purchased and baked the vegetable lasagna herself at home prior to setting up for the event. Tom also reported that the lobster cost was somewhat lower this year as well. Unfortunately we were apparently shorted 2 lobsters so it is recommended that next year we count the contents of the box prior to cooking just to verify the accuracy of the order.

**Next year St. Sebastian's Hall will not be available for rentals due to renovations going on inside the Church. Tom requests suggestions for a new site for next year's event. We pay \$200 for the hall rental unless we have more than 70 people.**

**B. Membership.** Frank Thomas reported that we have 5 new members with active membership at 340. He mailed 40 membership invitations to retirees after the Founder's Day event. Seven invitations were delivered in person. Frank will start the renewal process next week.

**C. Political Action.** Bob Gandee reported that he will need help next year attending the OCHER meetings in Columbus since he is only able to attend 1 of the scheduled meetings. The meeting dates for next year are September 26, November 28, March 27, and May 22. Dan Sheffer volunteered to cover the November meeting.

**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported that all STRS members have received a letter confirming that the cost of living adjustment (COLA) has been suspended. STRS will look at the possibility of reinstating the COLA in 2022.

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, May 25, 2017  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

**Some retiree dependents are still having trouble with their medical bills due to Anthem's errors. If the medical provider will resubmit the bill to Medicare, it should clear up the problems. Chard-Snyder is still having issues with processing payments. And they continue to use Social Security Numbers rather than account numbers for their processing.**

**E. Faculty Senate. Bob Gandee reported on the most recent Faculty Senate meeting in Ali's absence. (Ali's formal report can be found at the end of these minutes in the Appendix.)**

**President Wilson reported that enrollment was looking better and seat deposits increased by 15%. He spoke concerning the College Plus program. High schools are complaining about the cost of books for their students taking college classes. Professors change books so frequently that the high schools are unable to reuse the books they've purchased. He also reported that two-year colleges want to offer Bachelor Degrees which does not sit well with four-year institutions. The president also spoke to using credit cards for University travel so that the rebate perks will come back to the University. The University is currently spending over \$8 million dollars on travel expenses.**

**The Provost spoke about on-line education and Western Governors' certification body for those programs. Other topics of discussion included the use of \$18 million out of the "Rainy Day Fund," the commercialization of technology for tenure, and the reorganization of graduate programs.**

**Bob has been appointed to the University Council Committee on Institutional Advancement. They are currently working on a computer program that will connect incoming students with University scholarships that they might be eligible for.**

**F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer reported that all was up-to-date on the website.**

**G. Scholarship. No report due to Carl's absence. Diane noted he hopes to have a recommendation for the Board in time for next month's meeting.**

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, May 25, 2017  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

H. **Newsletter.** Pam Rupert reported that articles are coming in for the next newsletter.

VI. **Unfinished Business.** Diane noted that we have two Member-at-Large unexpired term positions to fill by appointment. Names are currently being collected.

VII. **New Business.**

A. Ed Lasher proposed an amendment to the AUAR Constitution that would allow Associate Members who were former employees of The University of Akron to vote and hold office. Discussion followed concerning former employees who are now retired and might have an interest/ability/competence/experience in serving in a Board capacity. Ed Lasher moved that The Association of University of Akron Retirees (AUAR) Associate Members who were former full-time employee of The University of Akron shall be eligible to hold office in the AUAR and be a member of the AUAR Board. Discussion followed with possible wording changes for the bylaws. Dan Sheffer seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued over the current wording in the AUAR Bylaws and possible wording changes. Neal Raber moved that the rewording of the Bylaws be referred back to the Parliamentarian for review and returned to the Board at the June meeting to be considered. Tom Vukovich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Neal Raber then presented an update on the group Protect Ohio Pensions (POP5). Their membership is increasing as they work to prevent legislative interference with investments and protect defined benefit retirement plans. Their web address is POP5.org and can be contacted at POPOFFICE@POP5.org.

VIII. **Adjournment at 11:50am.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary

**Next Executive Board Meeting:**

**June 22, 2017**

**Photos of the new Board will be taken at this meeting!**

**Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, May 25, 2017  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

**APPENDIX**

May Faculty Senate Report

Chair Rich in his remarks talked about the items that are going to be presented by different Senate Committees. He said on the agenda for today's meeting are curriculum change proposals from the Curriculum Review Committee; a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee calling for undergraduates taking graduate-level courses for credit toward their undergraduate degrees not to be charged more for taking those courses than they would be charged for taking undergraduate courses; on the recommendation of the Academic Policies Committee approval of the consolidation of the Ph.D. program in counseling psychology in the Psychology Department in the College of Arts and Sciences with the three faculty members currently in the School of Counseling in the College of Health Professions who teach in that program moving to the Psychology Department; on the recommendation of the Computing and Communication Technologies Committee approval of the replacement of the learning management system; approval of recommendations of the Part-time Faculty Committee concerning best practices concerning the effective use and support of part-time faculty members; the final report of the ad hoc Interdisciplinary Initiatives Committee, which includes several action items; and a proposal to amend the Faculty Senate bylaws to allow Senators participating in the Transition After Retirement Program (TARP) to serve for the remainder of their Senate terms.

The Executive Committee reported that they met with the Board of Trustees for their second information session. They discussed the Governor's textbook affordability mandate, the possibility of joining other schools in the Ohio Plan for tuition, budgeting processes, fundraising, efforts to better understand the SSI formulas, athletics, the need to retain our own talented staff, our overall number of academic programs, and planning. They also met with provost and president and discussed the possible role in shared governance for faculty retiring in the TARP program; graduate assistants in the Polymer College; childcare on campus; recruiting transfer students; the assessment director position; and the potential that the creation of new academic programs from existing courses might have in recruiting, retention, and graduation. They also met two more times for regular senate businesses.

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, May 25, 2017  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

President Wilson gave a status update on several things such as Governor's budget, tuition increase, enrollment and possible withdrawal of 18 million dollar from the University's bank account which is much better than the anticipated 30 million, Ohio plan, college credit plus and the cost of text books, applied bachelor's degree given by community colleges if the degree is not offered by a public or private university within 30 miles, the Western Governors University, scholarships, and finally the provision in the budget relating to tenure that is supposed to be investigated by the BOT. There were a lot of questions for the president.

Provost Ramsier in his remarks explained why this year there are not as many summer classes offered. He thanked the CCTC subcommittee for work on laptop refreshment. He mentioned that he has not received HLC report yet. He thanked APC for work on consolidation of the counseling psychology PhD program. Finally he elaborated on the State House Budget. There were few questions for provost.

This completes my report.

Submitted by Ali Hajjafar