

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting October 25, 2018
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

- I. **Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on October 25 by President Neal Raber at 10:00 am.

- II. **Others present included** Bob Blankenship, Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, and Mel Vye.

- III. **Excused:** Laura Moss-Spitler

- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the September 27th meeting were approved as corrected.

- V. **Treasurer's Report.** John Heminger reported an October balance of \$9,747.61. In October 2017 our balance was \$10,123.27. Our income over the past month from membership and luncheon fees amounted to \$1,916. Our expenses for October amounted to \$2,356.98 which included both the cost of the newsletter and the honorarium for our luncheon speaker. In addition, the Aramark catering charges for the September luncheon totaled \$476.10.

- VI. **Corresponding Secretary.** Linda Sugarman reported sending a sympathy card to Carole Newman on the death of her husband, Isadore, and a thank you note to Rae and Bob Leonard for their donation of the 50/50 raffle prize back into our scholarship fund. Several more recent deaths were passed on to Linda for cards to be sent.

- VII. **Committee Reports.**
 - A. **Programs.** Neal Raber brought up for discussion the difficulty he encountered in preparing the Honorarium for October's luncheon speaker. After several forms were completed and several bouts of confusion followed concerning pick up of the check, the University mailed the check to our speaker PRIOR to the date of the event. Neal suggested that it might be more prudent to keep a higher balance in Petty Cash so that Petty Cash could be used rather than our University account when a payment is needed. Neal moved that the Treasurer will keep a \$300 Petty Cash balance at all times allowing us to handle Honorarium requests as "gifts" in the future. Ed Lasher seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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Tom Vukovich reported that the March 13th luncheon is still open on this year's speaker agenda. Next year's agenda (2019-2020) is open for all luncheons with the exception of September.

Special Events: Diane Vukovich finalized the list for soups and chilis at the upcoming Soup and Chili Supper. Roger Bain, Neal and Tom will provide chili while Pam Rupert will bring her seafood soup and Rita Klein will provide her husband's Barley Mushroom soup.

Tom reminded everyone to bring White Elephants to use as prizes for the Bingo games which follow the supper. The Board will seek more input from the attendees at the Soup and Chili Supper to decide on a different theme and menu for next year.

B. Membership. Frank Thomas reported that we now have 411 active members which include 281 paid members and 130 free new retiree memberships. There remain 101 inactive members with Frank also dropping 7 people from the rolls.

Frank also reported that we have already added \$3,788 to our scholarship funds through our membership renewal process.

C. Political Action. No report

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported that two retiree dependents had contacted her concerning the cost of dependent health insurance for the coming year and the timing of receipt of enrollment materials. Linda contacted Michael Spayd, Manager of Benefits, and was told that materials would go out that week. Some retiree dependents have reported receiving their packets.

The monthly premium is going up to \$77.00, an increase of \$11 per month. This was based on the Union contract which called for retiree dependents and active employees to pay 18% of the premium in 2019.

One retiree dependent inquired as to whether or not a dependent would have continued coverage if the spouse (Faculty member) passed away. Linda assured the retiree dependent that health benefits continue for the spouse of a deceased faculty member and referred her to the Benefits Office for more information.

Linda also reported that the open enrollment for health benefits for STRS is November 1st through 20th. Most participants will not have an increase in the cost of benefits this year. STRS has had two years with good rates of return. However, this does not mean these good returns will continue at this level.

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She also noted that the last newsletter from STRS included a section about the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Based on this article, Linda does not anticipate a return of the COLA before 2022, if then.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar provided the following report:

Chair Saliga called the meeting to order. In her remarks she stated that The University of Akron is in desperate need of two things: money and trust. We need to increase both if we are to survive and the three-year action planning process can help with both. To help with trust, the administration needs to be transparent in its decision making all the way to the end.

Secretary of Executive Committee (EC) reported that since the last meeting they met three times including the meeting with the Provost. Topics discussed within the Executive Committee included: reorganization, the results of program review, administrative activities review, the strategic planning process, the strategic planning timeline, Stark State dual admission, search budgets, the status of the part-time faculty laptop refresh, alternatives to reorganization, the strategic action plan, certified elections, and committee appointments. Topics discussed with the Provost included: the application of the small class formula applied to part-time faculty, summer salaries in Developmental Programs, small classes in general, credit hour production, efficiency in course offerings, reorganization, dual admission, program duplication, and search budgets. The EC presented the following two resolutions:

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate request that the Administration provide rationales for the reorganizations it proposes, along with supporting data, including but not limited to data supporting the claim that the reorganizations will “more effectively promote and advertise degrees to potential students” and “direct students to the right degree or degree track more quickly and efficiently, increasing retention and graduation”.

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate request that the Administration allow sufficient time and provide adequate support for the affected academic units to meet to discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks of reorganization and to determine the extent of any “educational and research synergies.”

The senate approved the resolutions.

Most of Acting President Green’s comments were around the second resolution. He said he has met with the affected academic units to discuss the reorganization proposals. He said the units were invited to propose alternatives for creating an action plan. He explained the timetable for completing the process. Deans and units should be done by Thanksgiving. By Nov 27, the plan should be presented to University Council as a vetting body. Also Faculty Senate should discuss it in a

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special meeting and take the result to the Colleges. The budget-planning process will begin in January. He explained four parameters that should be considered for preparing the action plan. The plan should focus on increasing persistence, retention and graduation. By 2022 persistence should increase by 3% and the graduation rate by 6%. Other factors were enrollment, revenue and \$45 million deficit. He said the action plan will be for the first three years and might be modified each year and that should lead us to a long-term strategic plan. Finally he presented a chart of head counts that showed substantial decline from 2011 until now that is about 1/3 reduction. He explained some reasons for this decline and emphasized that the University has to expand recruitment efforts.

The Provost in his remarks stated that the Board met to create new structures. A presentation was made regarding retention and graduation rates. He said according to data, one fourth of the students that are here in fall will not return next fall. For more information regarding his data you may refer to the Faculty Senate web page. At the end of his remarks, he said we are working hard with regard to administrative activities review. He complained about the Akron Guarantee Scholarship which has not been as effective as anticipated. 83.8% of students receiving AGS returned in comparison with 81% of the old scholarship recipients. AGS is more expensive than the old formula. He said for new students we may go back to the old system.

In committee reports, CRC brought course proposals for approval. APC brought a Resolution to Permit Degree Completion for Un-coded Students:

Resolved, that students who meet the degree (major or minor) and/or certificate requirements in addition to the standard residential requirements during the teach-out phase of suspended programs will be permitted to graduate with the earned degree, minor, and/or certificate even if they have not previously been coded as a degree or certificate-seeking candidate. Students must also meet the GPA requirements designated by the college or department to earn a degree.

The Athletic Committee presented a written report.

The Strategic Planning Committee reported that they met June 21st, July 20th, and August 23rd and ideas were discussed.

University Council representative reported that Phil Allen is elected as the chair of the council.

- F. University & Community Service/Website. No report.
- G. Scholarship. No report.

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H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert requested information from Tom and Diane concerning schedules and dates to be included in the next newsletter. Information on the trip to Japan will also be needed. Pam asked for suggestions on whom to interview.

VIII. Unfinished Business. None.

IX. New Business. None.

X. Adjournment at 10:53am.

**Respectfully submitted:
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary**

**Next Executive Board Meeting:
December 6, 2018.
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**