

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees  
Executive Board Meeting January 27 2022 Minutes  
Held via Zoom**

**I. Call to order:** The Board meeting was called to order on January 27 at 10:01am by President Elect Harvey Sterns.

**II. Welcome & Announcements:**

Members attending via Zoom or phone: Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Carl Lieberman (audio), Tom Nichols, Dan Sheffer, Laura Moss-Spitler, Harvey Sterns, Richard Steiner, Linda Sugarman, Mary Verstraete, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich

Absent with notice: Rita Klein, Tim Lillie

**III. Approval of minutes:**

The minutes of the December 2 2021 Executive Board meeting were approved as distributed.

**IV. Treasurer's Report.** John Heminger reported:

**November 2021**

UA Account income: dues \$12.00., luncheon proceeds \$535.00

UA Account expenses: luncheons: \$557.50 (Nov.), \$399.94 (Sept.)

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$40.41 to T. Vukovich for speaker gifts, postage, table covers.

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$9,875.89	\$279.40	\$10,155.29
Income	\$547.00	\$0.00	\$547.00
Expenses	\$957.44	\$40.41	\$997.85
Final balance	\$9,465.45	\$238.99	\$9,704.44
November 2020			
Final balance	\$10,866.78	\$79.40	\$10,946.18

**December 2021**

UA Account income: dues \$48.00, luncheon proceeds \$609.00, Soup & Chili proceeds \$150.00.

UA Account expenses: luncheon: \$575.79.

Petty Cash income: \$5.00 donation at Soup & Chili.

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00.

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	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$9,465.45	\$238.99	\$9,704.44
Income	\$807.00	\$5.00	\$812.00
Expenses	\$575.79	\$0.00	\$575.79
Final balance	\$9,696.66	\$243.99	\$9,940.65
December 2020			
Final balance	\$9,765.20	\$79.40	\$9,844.60

The report was approved subject to audit.

**V. Corresponding Secretary.** Linda Sugarman reported:

A thinking of you card was sent to Rae Leonard  
 Get well and sympathy cards were sent to Bob Mravetz  
 A sympathy card sent to the family of Lici Calderone at only known address was returned to me  
 A sympathy card was sent to the family of Marge Codian  
 A sympathy card was sent to the family of Blin Scatterday  
 A sympathy card was sent to Walden Crabtree on the death of his wife Marilyn  
 Following today's meeting a thinking of you card will be sent to Rita Klein who is progressing well.

**VI. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs:** Tom & Diane Vukovich reported

The February 16 program announcement will have information added about how to access parking and the building since the usual entrance is closed due to construction.

Information will be added about the Covid vaccination requirement approved by the board

The March 16 program will be titled "The Romance on Perkins Hill: the Gatsby Era in Akron". The presenter is David Lieberth.

The April program will be a presentation by Dr. Gerald Newsome, OCHER representative to STRS who prepares the summaries of the STRS pension plan.

Consideration is being given to the annual bus trip taken in April.

The May program will be the Lobster and Suds event to be held at Zwisler Hall beside St. Sebastian School.

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**B. Membership:** Mel Vye reported there are no changes to report in membership numbers. Many people don't use electronic delivery of membership news and don't use their Univ of Akron email addresses that are listed or don't use electronic devices or have computer access anymore. Mary Verstraete, Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman, and Dan Sheffer volunteered to help Mel look at the retiree list to see if there are other addresses to use or other contact information which would be helpful. They will go back 3 years initially.

**C. Political Action.** Bob Gandee reported that the new investment proposal is not moving forward. OCHER is drafting a letter to STRS asking them to consider re-instating the COLA. Dan added that STRS is looking at a one-time COLA of 2% for retirees coupled with a 2% decrease in active member contributions. There are many competing interests and issues. There is an open meeting of STRS today scheduled for 3 hours which begins at 11 am. It will be available online soon after.

**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman. No report.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Ali Hajjafar reported:

**Faculty Senate Meeting December 2, 2021**

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remark she welcomed the Director of Environmental & Occupational & Safety to provide an overview of the situation with regard to COVID in campus. She mentioned that later in Committee Reports, APC will bring a motion to the floor recommending adoption of a software package that empowers students to plan their courses of study, more easily personalize their schedules, and minimize unproductive credits. Students and advisors view the same information thereby helping students to graduate on time. She elaborated a software platform will aid student's success, recruitment, and will help the University to compete with other institutions at the same time. She hoped that senators support the recommendation.

Executive Committee reported that since last regular meeting, they met three times including the meeting with Provost Wiencek, and Senior Vice Provost Hendricks. Subjects discussed included: COVID, enrollment, articulation agreements, and ERP software options. The EC endorsed encouraging senators to donate to the campus Cupboard campaign.

President Miller in his remark, mentioned that Fall commencement will be held in the JAR building and that will give us opportunity to have real processional and recession. He thanked Faculty Senate Executive Committee for \$1000.00 donation to campus Cupboard campaign. He said \$100,000.00 was raised in that short campaign. He reported of a lot of time spending with legislature working on bills of interest to UA. Bills that would give students graduating from Ohio Higher Ed, would not have income taxes for 3 years, give business tax credit for those who provide paid internships, and merit based scholarships through Ohio first plan. He talked about tracking other bills carefully. He said divisive issues still being discussed on which version to push forward and if Higher Ed will be part of it. He mentioned of sponsoring local meeting of local legislatures before the holidays about Higher Ed priorities. He said we have continued to watch COVID variants and talked about planning for renovation of Polsky's side of Main Street. Many faculty are involved in its arts driven process. This coupled with renovation of Exchange Street by the City next year will make a change. He said everybody in the University system is stressed out. Students have expressed concern regarding their own mental health. He asked faculty to talk to students if they come to them regarding attendance flexibility and their mental health. He talked about group meetings between the City and UA to formalize relationship regarding safety and issues that they can collaborate. Finally he appreciated the informal meeting that he has had with Faculty Senate a few weeks earlier. Provost Wiencek in his remark reported that applications are up and we've been doing a full press on recapturing students who took Fall semester off and are ready to come back for Spring. He said transfer numbers are up and although we fell behind a bit on processing applications during the crush of Nov and early Dec we continue to push and get students to apply and as we enter the spring we'll work with them to register. He said UPG (University Planning Group) is getting website up and functional, collect ideas, tracking and goal setting process

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and AKR process (A for aspirations, K for key results, and R for results). It is clear to UPG that we need to have someone who monitors these in an ongoing basis so pushing out a provost faculty fellow to monitor AKRs and hold deans and others accountable to the process. He talked about bills that students receive and often does not include all their financial aids. We are working on simplifying the bill and making it to include all financial information. He said Ad Hoc Investment Committee continues its work, answering questions but staying in the back while they discuss ideas and actions. Finally he talked about four dean searches, Law and CBA finalists are coming, CHHS finalists will come in spring, and PEPS will be ready by mid-spring. He added VP for research also underway, VP for student pathway, Honors, and VP for student Enrollment all are significant positions and would like to get those done. After provost remark the Director of Environmental & Occupational & Safety presented some statistics regarding COVID cases in campus. 29 cases as of Nov 18. Vaccine rates are: 71.4% employees and 63.2% students. More data will come out on week of Dec 13.

In Committee reports, the APC's recommendation of a software platform was approved. CRC brought 39 course and 39 program proposals for approval and they got approval without dissent. AAUP representative did not have much to report. Graduate council representative reported the council finalized and voted on definition of Full-Time grad students to include domestic grad students in program internships. The council also discussed the grad faculty and grad student relationship. Discussing expectations and whether they are in STEM or non-STEM programs. USG representative reported of a mental health round table, hosting with student athletes. Students can access forms on USG page to send concerns more quickly. UC representative reported that they are actively involved in UPG process and UCEC is working on revising bylaws and they are almost finished.

There was a subsequent informal virtual meeting on **January 18, 2021** of Faculty Senate members and President Miller and Provost Wiencek. Subjects discussed included: Providing N95 masks for students, assignment of classrooms with distancing in mind, contact tracing, switching to online on snow days, half a day instead of full day, effect of snow days on labs, snow days and classes that do not meet on campus, COVID updates on dashboard, and testing students who are not vaccinated.

**F. University & Community Service/Website.** Dan Sheffer reported it is up to date with happenings of today to be added.

**G. Scholarship.** Ali Hajjafar (temporary chair) and Dan Sheffer (temporary board liaison). There have been no meetings.

**H. Newsletter.** Martha Vye reported the last issue of newsletter was just distributed. The photo CDs and videos developed by Ed Lasher have been reviewed for contents. She will create a spreadsheet showing the information. She raised a question whether she should hold the materials or take them to the archives. Tom Vukovich requested they be held for now.

**VII. Old Business:**

Luncheon February 16 – John Heminger needs help with sign in. Harvey Sterns volunteered. Bob Gandee volunteered to do the 50/50 raffle.

**VIII. New Business.**

Nominating committee needs to form and develop a slate of candidates for election. Tom Nichols, Laura Moss-Spitler, and Mary Verstraete will comprise the membership.

**IX. Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 10:59 am.

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**Respectfully submitted:  
Jo Ann Collier, Recording Secretary**

**Next meeting will be February 24 2022 via Zoom at 10:00am**

- Meeting Schedule for 2021-22:
  - 2021 August 26; September 23; October 28; December 2
  - 2022 January 27; February 24; March 24; May 26; June 23
    - Photos of the board taken at the June meeting