

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting February 22, 2024 Minutes
Held in person and Zoom**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on February 22, 2024 by President Harvey Sterns at 10:00 am.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending: Harvey Sterns, John Heminger, Mary Verstraete, Linda Sugarman, Richard Steiner, Robert Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, Richard Milford, Kathy DuBose, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich

Absent: Dan Sheffer, Connie Heldenfels, Carl Lieberman, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Cathy Edwards, Mary Schadle, Rita Klein, Tom Nichols

Kathy DuBose mentioned that she was still having difficulty receiving email and that this needs to improve. Harvey Sterns thanked Tom and Diane for coordinating the Annual Road Trip. The Board asked Linda to send a note to Rita and Denny Klein.

III. Approval of Minutes: Three corrections were identified; The date in the header and in the Call to Order should be January 25, 2024, the text in the Treasurer’s report should read that “Harvey delivered the **cash...**”, and the text in Programs should read Chili & Soup. Bob Gandee moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Diane Vukovich seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

IV. Treasurer’s Report: It was reported that the missing cash was ‘found’ by the Bursar’s office.

Richard Steiner moved to accept the Treasurer’s report, Mary Verstraete seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

January 2024

UA Account income: membership dues \$180.00; luncheon proceeds (Sept 2023) \$296.00.

UA Account expenses: Printing Services \$1025.06

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$12,697.68*	\$322.48	\$13,020.16*
Income	\$476.00	\$0.00	\$476.00
Expenses	\$1,025.06	\$0.00	\$1,025.06
Final balance	\$12,148.62*	\$322.48	\$12,471.10*
Final Balance			

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January 2023	\$10,182.01*	\$195.38	\$10,377.39*
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* These include dues payments for future years.

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman reported that she sent a “Get Well” card to Denny Kline.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Tom Vukovich noted that we had a good presentation from Rochelle Sibbio from Habitat for Humanity of Summit County and that the dates for the Fall Luncheons have been set.

Tom Vukovich reviewed the spring calendar and the lunch selections for each.
 March 20 – Dan Sheffer will give a talk on Birding in Cuba and other places. Steak Tips will be served.
 April 17 – Jason Segedy will discuss the plans for the Polsky Building. Meatballs and rigatoni will be served

Tom reported that the Road Trip will be April 26 and he found a reasonable bus charter for \$1300 that will hold 40 people. Registration will take place mid-March. Attendees should arrive by 8:45 am and park behind the Martin Center.

B. Membership: Chair Mel Vye is in New Zealand, no report

C. Political Action: Bob Gandee reported the no validity was found regarding the anonymous letter sent to OCHER with allegations against the Ohio Teachers pension. However, Stein has still not been reinstated. The next meeting will be next Tuesday.

The Regional Conference has been set for April 3, 2024, 9:30 am – 4:45 pm at Quaker Station and an e-mail has been sent out to all retirees to register.

D. Benefits: Linda Sugarman had no report.

E. Faculty Senate: Ali Hajjafar sent the minutes from the last meeting to the Board via e-mail.

Harvey noted that graduate students would only be funded for the minimum number of credit required for their degree, any addition credits will have to be paid for by the student. He also noted that a Grievance Committee will come up at the next meeting and that people are not speaking up as they used to. He thanked Ali for doing the summaries of the meetings.

Bob Gandee noted that Senate Bill 83 is still under discussion and that all university presidents are opposed to it.

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F. University & Community Service/Website: No report

G. Scholarship:No report

H. Newsletter: No report

VII. Old Business.

Update the approach to the Thank You process for the University individuals who help the Board out.

Ad Hoc Reference Committee on By-Laws: Harvey Sterns, Dan Sheffer, Rita Klein and Carl Leiberman.

Follow up meeting with Paul Levy to discuss retiree benefits and how the benefits on the Board Rules have changed, including discounts to university events.

Tom Vukovich is still working on an update on parking.

VIII. New Business.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully Submitted: Mary C. Verstraete, Recording Secretary

The next meeting of the 2023-2024 year is scheduled for March 25, 2024 at 10:00 am in the Infocision Board Room.

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Faculty Senate Meeting February 1, 2024

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remark, she said: As we begin a new semester, I want to share a few reminders around student success. As faculty, you are often the first one to see signs that a student is struggling. They may miss class, be late turning in assignments, have below average grades or seem isolated from the other students - or they may come directly to you for help. At UA, we have many resources to help students, so many that it can be difficult to navigate them all. Referring a student to the Help a Zip program is the best way to match a student to the resource they need. Links to the referral page are found at the bottom of every daily Digest, at the bottom of UA's home page, and in My Akron. If a student begins missing class, sometimes a friendly email from you to see if they are doing okay will get them back in the classroom. If it doesn't, and you have a dedicated academic adviser, please alert them so they can find out if the student is having problems across multiple classes and intervene if necessary. All of you know this, but please continue to do your best to get feedback and grades to students as promptly as you can. It should go without saying, but students need to know their grades to be successful. OAA has shared with us that students are urgently requesting that faculty utilize the grade books in Brightspace. It's very easy to use, is highly adaptable to your personal grading methods, and there are training modules available for anything you're not sure of. Even if you aren't using Brightspace, please make sure to communicate feedback promptly in some other way, while being careful to maintain privacy. I am continuously impressed by the dedication and depth of care that the faculty of the University of Akron show their students. Thank you for everything you are doing to ensure the success of our students. The activity at the statehouse around Senate Bill 83 has gone quiet and it has been referred to the House Rules and Reference committee. We will, of course, continue to monitor it closely and keep you posted on how you can help influence its outcome should it move forward.

Secretary of Executive Committee reported: The Senate-EC met with Provost Wiencek and Senior Vice Provost Price. We discussed enrollment, vacant leadership positions, and goals for the upcoming year. The Senate-EC has also updated the senate by-laws and bring those for your review with a planned vote at the March senate meeting.

Provost Wiencek in his remark said: It's been a mild winter but two snow days. Enjoy report on changes to bylaws. It reminds me of my time here. Started in 2020, we've come a long way. Great strides towards collaborating and joining arms. Joint ventures between UC and FS, willingness to collaborate across those bodies. Looking at student affairs and thank you all for the deliberation and believe that has helped us move forward. Regarding Workday, students are progressing, and doing well there. Milestones happening on Feb 7. There is a mock semester event, sort of a walk in and have people show you various features of student module. Drop in event in BCAS. For more details contact OAA. Goal is soft launch in mid-March with go-live in April. Hopefully will go better this time. It won't go perfectly, can't anticipate every issue that happens. Very pleased with response of IT and now Enrollment Management. Don't be afraid to reach out if you have issues. Millions of people will be here for the eclipse.

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
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Different for us, going remote for that day is in the best interests of delivery and safety. Still awaiting some clarification for working remotely for staff. Look for some posts in Digest. Regarding enrollment, our focus is on recruiting and concern over FAFSA situation. Delay is longer than expected, pushed back to March and that's nebulous. Many students are making decisions based on loans and government assistance and that can have a cascade effect on schools. Our pattern will change because of that. Looking at confirmations to date, we have had a lot of software changeovers as well, so that customer side is going smoothly but data is going to two buckets rather than one. But we are up a healthy amount and are encouraged by numbers. Enrollment looking optimistic. Do want to shout out to the enrollment team and IT for all the TLC to the process, hitting the milestones and looking at all the software packages. Moving to SLATE and away from the three platforms we were using. Good access to data. Thanks to Steve McKellips and his team. AIC process is rolling out, have requests for funding and committee to meet and discuss benchmarks. Allocation will be more modest this year after last year's heavy lift. Regarding allocating resources, we already have asked all units to report to Provost. We may not fill some positions and move that money to other areas. Workgroups going on for PT Faculty and Faculty Senate has organized that, Course Evaluation Workgroup as well. Look forward to work from those committees.

In Committee reports, CRC brought 22 course proposals and 29 program proposals to the floor, and they were approved.

AAUP representative reported: AAUP will be reaching out about day in the life of faculty with BOT members soon and LMPC will continue to work on the workload policy and hope to finish up soon. OAA has posted workload policies on their website.

Graduate council representative explained proposed changes to GC bylaw. There were a lot of discussion on the issues. They were approved except one item regarding grievance which was sent back to EC for modification.

GSG representative reported: GSG has been very busy during the first few weeks of the spring semester. Last week, we held our January meeting with all of our members. Two highlights from this include, swearing in our Senator for the College of Engineering and Polymer Sciences, Julia Wood, and welcoming Dr. Bausch to introduce herself and the Graduate School to our members. In the coming weeks, GSG will be rolling out two Taskforces that will be open to all currently registered graduate students, these include Student Engagement & Success and Mental Health. The purpose of these Taskforces is to continue our work across campus and serving the needs of our constituents more efficiently by collecting student input. Upcoming, we will be working on our spring elections and collaborating with USG on programing.

USG representative mentioned that the Spirit week is February 19-23, and night at the museum on March 6. Also mentioned the bottle cap recycling in SU, and BCAS.

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
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UC representative reported that UC met in December and January and endorsed strategic plan and youth protection policy.