

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, December 1, 2016
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

- I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on December 1st by President Diane Vukovich at 10:00am.**

Others present included Bob Blankenship, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Velma Pomrenke, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas, Martha Vye, and Tom Vukovich.

Excused: June Burton, Stu Terrass

- II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of October 27, 2016 meeting were approved as written.**

- III. Treasure's Report. Bob Blankenship reported that our October 2016 balance was \$8,465.42. Last year's October balance was \$6,949.50. This big difference appears to be due to when items are posted to our account.**

Bob also reported that we took in \$700 at our November luncheon which covered the luncheon cost of \$690. The 50/50 raffle generated \$32.50 which was put into our operating funds. There were 3 no-shows at this event. Diane will contact them.

Bob stated that we took in \$155 for the Chili Supper. We had \$168 in expenses for that event.

- IV. Corresponding Secretary: Martha Vye – no report.**

- V. Committee Reports.**

- A. Programs. Tom Vukovich reported on a good November luncheon (November 9th). Dr. Stephen Brooks had little time to prepare but did a great job at helping to explain what happened just hours before.**

Special Events. Tom Vukovich reported that the November 4th chili supper was a success. We had some new members with us this year and Neal Raber's spoof on Donald Trump as our bingo caller was quite a hit.

President Wilson will be our guest speaker for December 14th. There will be no luncheon in January. February 8th luncheon will feature Claire Purdy speaking on her trip to Antarctica.

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- B. Membership.** Frank Thomas reported that our membership numbers look good. We have 335 paid members which includes 22 new ones. We still have 29 members who have not renewed for the current year. Frank has sent e-mails to them.
- C. Political Action.** Bob Gandee reported on the November 15th OCHER meeting. Dick Hill was honored for his service at this meeting. There was also a discussion over the increase in the cost of Medicare Part B for those retirees without Part A. The new director of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association attended and expressed enthusiasm for participation in OCHER.
- D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported that retiree dependents received their health benefits package of information for 2017 on or about November 15, 2016. This information arrived very late leaving retiree dependents less than a week to compare plans.

Premiums increased and benefits decreased as was expected. Retiree Dependents over 65 and on Medicare will pay \$61 per month. Those under 65 without Medicare will pay \$142. There will be additional costs if the retiree has dependents.

Out of pocket limits increased by \$1000 from previous years. New medical cards will be issues as Anthem will be the medical insurer. Caremark will remain the pharmaceutical manager. Those getting their medical coverage through STRS can anticipate premium increases after 2017.

- E. Faculty Senate.** Ali Hajjafar presented the following report:

The chair in his remarks mentioned that Ted Mallo, the secretary of the Board of Trustees, had asked the AAUP for three representatives to attend the BOT meeting to discuss the change of titles of Interim President and Interim Provost to President and Provost respectively. But he did not request the same from Faculty Senate. After the chair's complaint, the senate also received the request for three representatives. Three senators were chosen and attended the meeting. However, it was clear that the Board had made up their minds and did not care for what the representatives had to say.

The Board also decided on the continuation of discounted GE courses despite a resolution from the senate that recommended not to continue them.

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The Executive Committee of the Senate reported that they had met three times to assign committee members, validate elections, prepare the agenda for November meeting, and prepare for the meeting with President Wilson. Topics discussed with the President included: Stark State, the University budget, the Tiger Team's report, and interim positions.

The President in his remarks reported that there has been about 8% overall drop in enrollment. He said he is giving talks to different groups of potential students. Typical schools and students, who were not interested in UA last year show more enthusiasm now. Applicants are up 10% compared with last year. High Schools are willing to invite UA faculty to their classes for recruitment and encouraged the faculty to do so.

Furthermore, he commented on retention, endowed chairs, and University budget, which according to UC budget committee is not in good shape. As a result, he said the University must plan very conservatively. He said that UA is not the only university with budget stains. For example, Dayton had to reduce their cash reserve from 106 million to 36 million. There will not be a Christmas party this year and no bonus for him.

The Provost in his remarks reported that searches for 29 faculties, some tenure track and some non-tenure track, have been completed. Hiring of seven Deans has been approved by BOT to go ahead. GE core continues. There has been some dissatisfaction with the sizes of some of these courses. Therefore, the size is reduced to 25-30. The number of sections of these courses is limited. In the near future, the tuition for these courses will go up.

He reported that the draft of the HLC report is in his office. It will be put together by Dec 10. He was asked to comment on the Curriculum Proposal System, which he replied is not good and a group is working on it. He also said that something new for DARS would be better. To the question: How many of the Dean searches are national and how many internal? He answered, 3 national and 4 internal. He said time and cost are the reason behind internal searches and he intends to post a non-negotiating salary for all searches. To the question whether the faculty has been consulted for national or internal search, he answered, no.

In committee reports, course proposals submitted by the Curriculum Review Committee were approved. Written submitted reports by CCTC, Part-time faculty, Athletics, and Ad hoc Scholarly

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Communication Committees were noted. GE Advisory Committee reported that they are completing the process of approving courses. The Graduate Council representative reported that by the next meeting the updated program review would be ready.

The University Council representative brought forward an issue that President Wilson had to explain. He explained that the University had made an agreement with the city of Akron to release part of the first floor of the Polsky building for entrepreneurial purposes. A grant has been written and obtained. If the University wants to opt out, it will lose money. At the end of the meeting he was more open and said that Ex- President Scarborough has promised the space to the city of Akron without consulting with anyone, even the BOT.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer reported that the website is up-to-date.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported that our assets are valued at \$103,540. We've had gifts totaling \$3,374 coming in.

Carl also noted that our second scholarship recipient, Taylor Thompson, has withdrawn from the University. Diane has tried to contact him with no response. Therefore, the Committee decided to reissue a new scholarship for spring semester. The Committee recommended Kimberly Roby, a non-traditional, self-supporting Anthropology major with a 3.4 GPA. She is scheduled to graduate this spring. Carl moved to replace Taylor Thompson with Kimberly Roby and award her the entire \$1500 scholarship for spring semester. Tom Vukovich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that Carl will remind Mary Schadle to remove the scholarship from Taylor's account. Discussion also followed on the importance of the Board receiving a response from the recipient for the award.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert reported that the Newsletter has been held up due to various reasons. However, she is ready to receive the final pieces by December 15th if possible.

VI. Unfinished Business. None

VII. Special Orders. Diane Vukovich appointed the Nominating Committee for next year: Cathy Edwards, John Heminger, and Stu Terrass. Cathy Edwards agreed to be chair of this committee.

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Positions to be filled include President Elect and 3 Members-at-Large. The Members-at-Large whose terms are expiring include Loren Hoch, Ed Lasher, and Laura Moss-Spitler. The Nominating Committee report will be due at the February 23rd board meeting.

VIII. New Business. None

IX. Adjournment at 11:15am.

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

**Next Executive Board Meeting:
January 26, 2017.
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**