

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting February 25, 2021 Minutes
Held via Zoom**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on February 25, 2021 at 10:00 am by President Dan Sheffer.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending via Zoom or phone: Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Laura Moss-Spitler, Tom Nichols, Neal Raber, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, Richard Steiner, Bob Gandee,

Absent with notice: Tim Lillie, Carl Lieberman

III. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the January 28, 2021 Board meeting were approved as written.

IV. Treasurer’s Report. John Heminger reported:

January 2021

UA Account income: dues \$12.00
 UA Account expenses: \$0.00
 Petty Cash income: \$0.00
 Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$9,765.20	\$79.40	\$9,844.60
Income	\$12.00	\$0.00	\$12.00
Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Final balance	\$9,777.20	\$79.40	\$9,856.60
January 2020			
Final balance	\$8,358.55	\$245.51	\$8,604.06

The report was approved subject to audit.

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman reported numerous messages of condolence were sent to Judy Lasher and family upon the passing of Ed Lasher by individual board members.

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting February 25, 2021 Minutes
Held via Zoom**

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Tom & Diane Vukovich reported the program dates and topics planned for Spring 2021 are:

March 17, 2021 Mr. Victor Fleischer – Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company: A Photographic History

April 21, 2021 Dr. Harvey Sterns – The City of Akron – Is it an Age-Friendly City?

As reported previously, the usual spring events including the road trip and Lobster & Suds have been suspended pending changes in Covid restrictions.

B. Membership: Mel Vye reported a total of 68 new members, a total of 237 active members, total on the book number of 305. Membership has declined 40 percent from 2019-2020.

C. Political Action. Dan Sheffer discussed segments of G. Newsom's report to OCHER about STRS and projections about funded status of pensions and continuation of no COLA adjustments to retirees. Bob Gande discussed the Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) retention of an attorney to conduct a forensic audit of STRS records. In discussion Linda Sugarman reminded the group that the COLA is based on base salary at retirement and therefore affects retirees differently depending on length of retirement. The attorney retained by ORTA is not an independent accounting specialist, he is an attorney hired by ORTA.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman indicated that AUAR members have been informed of any benefit changes as quickly as possible via emails and additions to the website.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar reported:

Faculty Senate Meeting February 4, 2021

The meeting of February 4-th was held in Microsoft Team for the first time. I had hard time to join the meeting. So I missed the Chair's remark. President Miller in his remark mentioned that his administration is preparing for BOT meeting and is preparing for FY21 budget. He said BOT has asked us to revise the budget. CFO and provost have reviewed the revised budget with the executive committees of University Council and Faculty Senate. He said AAUP negotiating team has also had the budget for quite awhile to review. He said revision of the budget gives the UA transitions breathing space and gives an idea of enrollment building that is needed to do over next few years. About higher education issues he said the budget for renovation of Ayer hall and Crouse hall is approved. He said Athletic working group are meeting, they should have their report ready in next couple of months. Racial diversity group pushed back their report to the

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting February 25, 2021 Minutes
Held via Zoom**

middle of the semester. They want to think longer on some issues that they are working on.

Provost Wiencek in his remark mentioned that applications for next year are still down. He said 80% of applications are received. Poll of students who want to come here are very similar to what we have seen before. There is a 4% decline. He said we are focusing on the yield and summer melt. Improving these two, we will end up level with last year's enrollment. He explained yield is the fraction of students who have been admitted and end up submitting a deposit. Melt are those students who have paid their deposit but they decide not to come. He said all that being said last Fall we had a 7% decline. Our goal is to not only to hit that number but also see an increase. He said Fall to Spring retention took a hit but it is lower than expected. Regarding Fall scheduling he said recommendation is 6ft distance. He said we might have to come along with IUC (Inter-University Council) recommendations. If we have to do that, we may have to start classes earlier and may have to extend into the weekend. He said Strategic Planning Committee has made edits to their document. They have considered three short term goals: budget model that incentivizes enrollment, improving academic outcomes by looking at what we've done and listening to what our students want, and focusing on continuing education and professional education. He said we have successfully completed the search for Dean of BCAS. Search for Director of Polymer Science is under way. Also he said a draft of reorganization of OAA is ready. We are going to move forward with a search for director of research and development.

In Committee reports APC brought 3 motions to the floor. The first motion changed the name of College of Business Administration to College of Business. The second motion recommended that the modified credit/no credit, grading basis be continued at the undergraduate level and on a temporary basis for spring 2021 and beyond so long as public health crisis persists. The third motion recommended continuation of temporary test-optional admissions basis for another calendar year due to COVID pandemic. All three motions were adopted.

CCTC brought a resolution to the floor that requested the endorsement of migration to Microsoft Team as the primary video conferencing solution for fall 2021 and using Google Meet as an emergency backup solution. The resolution was adopted. Also CCTC requested that Faculty Senate form a committee to investigate whether Microsoft Alternative is an appropriate replacement for surveying software Qualtrix. It was decided to seek volunteers through The Digest. Both requests from CCTC save the University substantially.

Accessibility Committee reported of a meeting that they have had with Provost Wiencek regarding problems that students with disabilities had and the increased workload of the Office of Accessibilities in the online environment. They submitted a written report.

Ad hoc program Review Committee requested that the Senate change their Ad hoc status to permanent status which was approved. Also they asked the Senate to form a committee that would look at summative assessment and what types of things would be part of the substantive review. This also was approved.

AAUP representative reported of positive signs in negotiations.

USG submitted a written report.

University Council representative reported that revising strategic planning and developing strategic planning process is the most significant work of UC. He said a survey is coming to faculty asking for priorities.

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting February 25, 2021 Minutes
Held via Zoom**

In the old Business, the creation of Center for Intelligence and Security Studies that was postponed from last meeting was approved.

In the New Business, Faculty Senate bylaw updates that were submitted to the senators in advance received the official notification for approval in the next senate meeting.

In Good of order, the Chair announced that there will be a survey coming out and will be participating with a national group about students' mental health.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer reported he is working on updating the benefits section in particular to make sure it reflects what specific current benefits are available to retirees.

G. Scholarship.No report

H. Newsletter. Martha Vye reported the Spring newsletter had been mailed to members. Many kudos were expressed about her transition into the role of editor and the printed newsletter received in the mail. Martha requested ideas for names of possible interviewees for the Fall newsletter to be published later in the year.

VII. Old Business. Under usual circumstances the Nominating Committee would have submitted a report for this meeting. In addition to the unfilled position of member-at-large the position held by Ed Lasher needs to be filled. Dan Sheffer volunteered to convene a Zoom meeting of the Nominating Committee to formulate plans for vacant positions and upcoming slate of nominees and elections.

VIII. New Business. None

IX. Good of the Order

There was discussion of specific positions of the board which are becoming vacant as well as the need for photographs of programs to be submitted for the newsletter. The uncertainties of the pandemic on future programming and the large decline in retiree memberships and reported comments of intention of not supporting the university financially create significant constraints going forward. Virtual presentation of lunchtime programs has generated interest from viewers in remote geographic locations. We would like to support this going forward.

X. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

**Respectfully submitted:
JoAnn Collier, Recording Secretary**

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting February 25, 2021 Minutes
Held via Zoom**

Next meeting will be March 25, 2021 via Zoom at 10:00am

- Meeting Schedule for 2020-21: August 27, 2020; September 24, 2020; October 22, 2020; December 3, 2020; January 28, 2021; February 25, 2021; March 25, 2021; April 22, 2021; May 20, 2021; June 24, 2021 (Photos of the 2021-2022 board will be taken at the June 24, 2021 meeting).