

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

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on March 25, 2021 at 10:02 am by President Dan Sheffer.

II. Welcome & Announcements: There were no announcements

Members attending via Zoom or phone: Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Carl Lieberman, Neal Raber, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, and Richard Steiner

Absent with notice: Bob Gandee, Tim Lillie, Laura Moss-Spitler, and Tom Nichols

III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting were approved as corrected.

IV. Treasurer’s Report. John Heminger reported:

February 2021

UA Account income: dues \$72.00
 UA Account expenses: Print Services \$1177.17
 Petty Cash income: \$0.00
 Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

| | UA Account | Petty Cash | Totals |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Initial balance | \$9,777.20 | \$79.40 | \$9,856.60 |
| Income | \$72.00 | \$0.00 | \$72.00 |
| Expenses | \$1,177.17 | \$0.00 | \$1,177.17 |
| Final balance | \$8,672.03 | \$79.40 | \$8,751.43 |
| | | | |
| February 2020 | | | |
| Final balance | \$9,182.61 | \$254.40 | \$9,437.01 |

The treasurer’s report was approved subject to audit.

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman reported a card was sent to Nick Ranson and family expressing condolences on the passing of Penny Ryan Ranson.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Tom & Diane Vukovich reported:

The March 17, 2021 program presented by Victor Fleisher about photographs donated to the University Archives by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company was attended by

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approximately 24 participants. A summary of the meeting has been forwarded to Martha Vye for inclusion in the next print newsletter. The publication related to the archived photographs is available in the University Bookstore.

The April 21, 2021 program , “The City of Akron: Is it an Age-Friendly City?”, will be presented by Dr. Harvey Sterns.

The road trip and Lobster and Suds events originally scheduled for this spring have been cancelled.

Plans for the Fall 2021 programs are in process. UA President Gary Miller has agreed to be the speaker in September. Hopefully, this will be an in-person luncheon at the Depot/Quaker Square.

The Wednesday luncheon in October will be held October 13th. This is a one time departure from the usual schedule due to conflicts with the facility and university events.

B. Membership: Mel Vye reported there are a total of 68 new members, 242 active members, and a total on the books number of 310. Thirty dollars was received for the AUAR scholarship.

C. Political Action. Dan Sheffer reported that OCHER has just resumed meeting using Zoom . He will post reports from STRS and OPERS to the AUAR website.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported there is no new news about benefits. Elections for the STRS Board are coming soon.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar reported:

Faculty Senate Meeting, March 4, 2021

Chair Saliga called the meeting to order. In her remark, she said she is pleased that faculty have a contract with the University. She said we are now able to put all of our energy into moving forward and making UA an even better university for our community.

The Executive Committee reported that since last regular meeting, they met twice including meeting with Provost Wiencek. Subjects discussed included: A draft of OAA reorganization, update on the athletics review committee and their charge of identifying areas for cost savings, an update on enrollment, reinstatement of previously cancelled programs, and a draft communication regarding fall reopening. They reported that the EC established membership for Qualtrics Committee from campus volunteers.

President Miller in his remark was very pleased by the outcome and process of the new contract. He said he was impressed the most with creativity of two negotiating teams and the budget tools developed by CFO and his group that worked during negotiations. He said the future is pretty clear, we have some financial constraint but have opportunity to move forward. He said Larry Williams has chosen not to seek contract renewal, we will work with a search firm for his replacement. He finished his remark by announcing that the University has gotten permission for in person commencement in Spring. It will be outside with all the regulations in place. In response to faculty and student vaccination, he said that we have pressed for vaccines

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for faculty members and we have gotten nothing. He said we expect that there will be widespread vaccination by Fall, and if not, we will roll back. As far as requiring vaccines for students, he said it is difficult to do with emergency use vaccines.

Provost Wiencek in his remark elaborated on commencement. He said there will be four ceremonies with an additional ceremony for those from last year. Four guests and social distancing at current norms. He also elaborated on vaccination and the fact that University has learned some great things and has learned how to offer courses in new ways. He expressed gratitude that the University has new bargaining agreement with AAUP and thanked those who worked on it. He said now there is some common ground and locked arms as we move forward. He said now he looks forward to working with FS and UC and colleagues on campus. Feeling optimism, he said several pieces of OAA reorganization are clarified. No request for new funding. It has tried to keep expenditures level. He said University Planning group are just about ready to put their report together. There was a link of 68 page comments in the digest regarding that. He said a new Dean for BCAS is joining us July 1. We have a slate of candidates for the Dean of College of Business, have narrowed the list to four finalists. The Director of Polymer Science and Engineering is moving forward. The pool is smaller but heading for a finalist stage. He is optimistic to have three names. He said RTP is on schedule and moving along. Regarding enrollment, he said we continue to close some of the gaps. We are not that far off from last year, 3.9% decline. We are focusing on getting students committed with their deposits. We hope to see a slight increase for Fall class. He concluded his remark mentioning UA theater program. \$5 for a ticket. There will be several live streaming events at 7:30pm. He did not mention the dates.

In Committee reports, CRC brought 95 course proposals and 14 program proposals for approval. They were all approved without dissent. CCTC reported that they are looking into proctoring software and cheating issues and they hope to come up with a recommendation for the University.

Part-time Faculty Committee brought a motion to the floor regarding University to increase the pay for PT faculty. The motion passed without dissent.

AAUP representative echoed the Provost's comments regarding the contract agreement. She said they will send out more information on RIF's faculty fund and asked everyone to consider contributing. Many are still working as adjuncts. We should be as helpful as we can.

Graduate Council representatives reported that they continued to meet monthly to finalize restructuring the Graduate council membership based on the new restructuring of colleges. They said there will be 16 members: 14 elected and representing Colleges and 2 from the Faculty Senate. More precisely: 2 from College of Business, 2 from College of Health and Human Sciences, 6 from College of Arts and Sciences, and 4 from College of Engineering. They said one change to note is the revision of the Graduate Faculty Membership Committee that reviews graduate faculty status for graduate faculty (Categories I, II, or III). Now they can include graduate faculty with any of those categories. That said, the majority of the committee must hold Category III status.

GSG representative reported that they conducted a mental health workshop focusing on the graduate student issues, depression and anxiety.

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USG representative reported that they are focused on student trustee selection process and are conducting their equity challenge beginning on March 1-21 with different topics and themes.

University Council representative reported that they are working hard on the planning group activity. They appreciated everyone's input on survey that is used to identify points.

In old business, the Senate bylaw changes that were submitted to the members at the February meeting were approved without dissent.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan reported he is working to update the AUAR website to reflect recent changes about benefits for current retirees.

G. Scholarship. No report:

H. Newsletter. Editor Martha Vye reported she forwards information to Tony Fawver as she receives it. She needs suggestions for interviewees for the upcoming newsletter.

VII. Old Business.

AUAR Interim Nominations Report to Board

The Nominations Committee recommends the following slate of candidates to serve as officers or representatives of the Association of The University of Akron Retirees beginning July 1, 2021 for two years.

President Elect: Harvey Sterns

Members at Large of the Executive Board: (Three – two year terms to be elected)

Laura Moss Spittler
Tom Nichols
To be named

Member at Large of the Executive Board: (One year term, vice J. Wilbanks)

John Bee

The Board is reminded that nominations for any elected office may also be made by petition of **two or more** dues paying members of the Association, which shall be submitted to the Nominations Committee and received by the Nominations Committee Chair by the stated deadline date. These additional nominations must be mailed **with signatures and phone numbers of both members making these nominations and the signature and phone number of the candidate who must also be a member of The AUAR**, to the Nominations Committee Chair. Notice of this provision will be included in the OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS sent to the AUAR membership.

Richard Steiner, Chair

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Nominations Committee

Ali Hajiifar of the Nominations Committee noted the committee is waiting to hear from a potential nominee for the third At Large Board Member position on the ballot.

Motion: The name of the potential nominee Mary Verstrate will be added to the ballot if it is confirmed within the next few days.

First – Tom Vukovich

Second: Mel Vye

Action: Passed without dissent, one abstention

VIII. New Business. None

IX. Good of the Order

Linda Sugarman noted a recent article in FORBES about universities in financial difficulty, the University of Akron being one of them. She had no information about the accuracy or sources of the information.

X. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am.

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

Next meeting will be April 22, 2021 at 10:00am via ZOOM

- 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).