

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting March 28, 2019  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

**I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on March 28th by President Neal Raber at 10:00am.**

**II. Others present included Bob Blankenship, Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, John Heminger, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Loren Hoch, Bob Gandee, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, and Mel Vye**

**III. Excused: Frank Thomas, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Pam Rupert, Rita Klein and Ali Hajjafar**

**IV. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the February 28th meeting were approved.**

**V. Treasurer's Report. John Heminger reported a balance of \$7,631.55. Income of \$366.00 from retiree dues and luncheon proceeds. Expenses of \$1,018.66 for bus rental and luncheon.**

**There was no activity in Petty Cash this month; balance of \$292.04 remains the same.**

**Last year's balance for February/March 2018 was \$8,549.65**

**VI. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman – no report.**

**VII. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs. Tom Vukovich reported February Luncheon speakers Tim and Barbara Osyk, from the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, was a success. April is Zoar Speaker; Laura Moss Spitler handling arrangements. 2019-20 schedule is as follows:**

- September 11 – Mark Auburn: Book Review**
- October 9 – Mel Vye: Travelogue on Bhutan**
- November 13 – speaker needed**
- December 11 – Dave Umana: keyboard soloist**
- February 12 – speaker needed**
- March 11 – Ed Lasher, Tom & Diane Vukovich: Travelogue on Japan**
- April 8 – speaker needed**

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**Special events calendar for 2019-20:**

- November 1: Soup and Chili Supper
- April 24: Road Trip
- May 15: Lobster & Suds

**Special Events:** Tom also reported that our Road Trip is on schedule to take place on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Schedule still being firmed up but should include Center for the History of Psychology, The Bomb Shelter, Canal Park, Lunch at the Duck Club, Bob Jones Classic Car Museum, Wingfoot Lake Hanger and Vigeo Gardens (micro greens). 2019-20 special events include:

**Annual Lobster and Suds will be at St. Sebastian Hall on May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**B. Membership.** Frank Thomas submitted a report that there was no change from last month which was that we have 298 paid members and 158 new (free) members. Of the 80 inactive (unpaid) members, 49 of them are from last year's (17-18) retiree list who have not elected to renew by paying the membership.

**C. Political Action.** Bob Gandee – no report.

**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman – no report.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Ali Hajjafar submitted the following report:

Chair Saliga opened her remarks describing the emails that she had received from campus community. Her first concern was new policies regarding research grants and summer salary. Her next concern was workload. She said some units are writing different policies for tenure track faculty than non-tenure track. She believes each unit should have one policy that applies to everyone independent of rank. If a duty changes, the load/stipend for said duty should not change. Her third concern was reorganization that she believes costs money. She said the \$45 mill structural deficit (which is comparing the current revenue to that of 2015) does not take into consideration the fact that we have lost 15% of full time faculty from 2015. She believes that University should consider the real deficit. She said the University spent the fall semester writing three year action plans that administration claims to have been impressed with, saying that there are many good ideas proposed that should be implemented. We have not had time to implement any of those plans. She said it seems that reorganization could and probably will derail the implementation of those plans. Lack of shared governance was another concern of her in a rushed reorganization. She said it does not make sense to take on such a large task at this time.

The Executive committee's report was regarding the meetings that they have had with each other and with the interim president and provost. The most important topic of discussion had been reorganization. In the committee reports, CRC presented the new course proposals that were approved. Computing and communication committee

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presented a written report concerning online evaluations and need to update web conferencing software.

The Graduate Council representative reported from the meeting that the council had with interim president and provost regarding 1/3 loss of graduate students over past two years and 50% drop in applications this year.

Interim President Green in his remarks mentioned that despite the chairs remarks, in structural deficit they have considered reduction of faculty and staff. He reported that the Board of Trustees has asked him to investigate possible reorganization. He said considering shared governance, a plan was shared with the Deans and faculty of those departments to be most effected. The Deans organized a response based on their opinions and those of the faculty's evaluations. He said he revised the proposal and shared with the deans and those directly effected. He said the proposal will go to APC and the senate for comments and eventually will be presented to the Board of Trustees. Then he explained the steps that were needed and have been considered for the drafting of the proposal and promised to present substantial data to support his reorganization plan by Monday.

He talked about the new units in the plan which were 1) Polymer, Chemical, and biological Sciences, 2) Engineering Sciences and Technology, 3) College of Arts and Letters, 4) Innovation College.

He said the plan integrates the College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) into other colleges. He listed the departments in each new unit and mentioned that input will be taken seriously. He said in many respects, the status quo at UA is not successful and therefore not a default option. There were a lot of questions/remarks from Senators asking why the Board of Trustees asked for this reorganization before the new president is hired. The senators read emails from various people from campus showing their objections and questioning the timing of the proposal, though appropriate changes are needed. They complained that this proposal is considered before the needed data is available, especially when the University is searching for a new president. Some claimed that with this reorganization, the new president becomes a new manager rather than president.

At the end, a resolution was presented to postpone the reorganization until the new president is hired. The resolution was tabled until more data is available by administration as promised by Monday.

On Friday, the chair of the senate called a special meeting for Thursday. On Monday, people complained why the data was not received. On Tuesday, the interim president put a pause on the reorganization until the new president is hired. As the result the APC dropped the reorganization from its agenda, the chair of the senate cancelled the special senate meeting and calm returned to campus until the next issue.

**F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer – no report.**

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**G. Scholarship.** Carl Leiberman reported rate of return is down but is gradually improving: July 1, 2018 to October down 8.9%, July 1 to December down 7.6% from July 1 to February 2019 down .9%. Last month reported endowment funds of \$106,697.

**H. Newsletter.** Pam Rupert – no report.

**VIII. Unfinished Business.**

Nominating Chair, Mel Vye, reported no additional candidates. Committee moved slate be accepted. Approved.

**President Elect – Rita Klein  
Recording Secretary – Cathy Edwards (unexpired term of Rita Klein)  
Vice President – Jo Ann Collier (unexpired term of Cathy Edwards)  
At-Large Position – Tom Nichols (unexpired term of Jo Ann Collier)  
At-Large (full terms) – Laura Moss Spitler, Loren Hoch, Ed Lasher**

**IX. New Business.**

- Tom Vukovich made a motion that we authorize a payment of \$100 to David Umana from petty cash for December 11 luncheon. Seconded by Ed Lasher. Motion passed.
  
- Neal Raber noted there will be a general meeting after luncheon where the new officers will be introduced and there will also be a financial and membership update.

**X. Adjournment at 10:41am.**

**Respectfully submitted:  
Cathy Edwards (substitute) and Rita Klein, Recording Secretary**

**Next Executive Board Meeting:  
April 25, 2019.  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**