

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting October 28, 2021 DRAFT Minutes
Held in-person and Zoom audio**

I. Call to order:The Board meeting was called to order on October 28, 2021 at 10:04 am by President Rita Klein.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending:Jo Ann Collier,Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger,Rita Klein, Carl Lieberman (audio), Dan Sheffer, Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman, Mary Verstraete, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, Diane Vukovich,Tom Vukovich, and Richard Steiner

Excused:,Cathy Edwards, Tim Lillie, Laura Moss-Spitler, Tom Nichols

III. Approval of Minutes:The minutes of the September 23,2021board meeting were approved as distributed.The minutes of the general membership meeting held October 13, 2021 were also approved as distributed.

IV. Treasurer’s Report: John Heminger reported:

September 2021

UA Account income: dues \$312.00., luncheon proceeds \$154.00

UA Account expenses: Print Services Dept. \$1313.17

Petty Cash income: luncheon proceeds \$200.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$10,584.30	\$79.40	\$10,663.70
Income	\$466.00	\$200.00	\$666.00
Expenses	\$1,313.17	\$0.00	\$1,313.17
Final balance	\$9,737.13	\$279.40	\$10,016.53
September 2020			
Final balance	\$10,878.78	\$79.40	\$10,958.18

The treasurer’s report was approved subject to audit.

V. Corresponding Secretary:Linda Sugarman reported a sympathy card was sent to Lynn Hahn on the passing of her husband. It was noted that Daryl Reneker from the College of Polymer Science has passed away.

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VI. Committee Reports:

A. Programs: Diane and Tom Vukovich reported:

The annual Soup and Chili Supper event is scheduled at Goodyear Park, Friday, November 5. They have confirmed the place. Diane requested people sign up for soups or chili. Attendees not bringing soup or chili are asked to bring salads or desserts to share.

The luncheon talk by Derek Dailey, Life Lessons Learned From 30 Years in Game Shows, was well received. Presumably there will be an update about his quest to be a participant on another game show.

November 17 2021 program – President Gary Miller will speak on Post Pandemic Higher Education at the U of Akron. The meeting is scheduled to proceed in-person. Attendees are being asked to bring donations to Zip Assist, material or financial. A list of suitable donations will be appended to the luncheon invitation.

December 15 2021 program - Mel Vye and his merry band of tuba players will present a program of tuba music celebrating Christmas

February 16 2022 – Summit County Prosecutor's Office will send representatives to discuss ways to avoid senior scams. They will be bringing Avery the therapy dog with them.

March and April programs are pending.

We are hopeful that the "usual" road trip in April will take place. Lobster and Suds is still on track to be held in May at Zwisler Hall adjacent to St. Sebastian's Church in west Akron.

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B. Membership: Mel Vye reported member totals as: 114 new members (free), 234 renewals (paid), for a total of 348 active members.

C. Political Action: Dan Sheffer reported from OCHER. The last meeting was virtual. The next scheduled meeting this fall will also be virtual. As before, the main concern of retirees is whether the COLA will be restored. Active teachers want to pay less into the system and administrators want to decrease the financial liability of so-called legacy costs. No one wants to see the system flounder. An additional report from Jerry Newsome addresses the issue of the STRS audit. Dan will share the report once it is reviewed by OCHER. The current OCHER website sits on a tab at Bowling Green State University. They have indicated that the website will have to be brought into compliance with requirements for visually disabled users after the end of December 2021. This will represent a considerable expense. Dan requested that the board approve exploration with the University of Akron of using the existing website for AUAR to provide access to OCHER minutes and reports. A motion was made by Dan, seconded by Richard Steiner, to permit exploration of the use of the existing U of Akron AUAR website for posting of OCHER minutes and reports. There was discussion of appropriate people to contact, possible costs to AUAR and other issues of implementation. Mel Vye called the question. This was approved by voice vote. The original motion was approved with no dissent.

D. Benefits: Linda Sugarman had no report at this time.

E. Faculty Senate: Ali Hajjafar reported:

Faculty Senate Meeting October 7, 2021

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remark, she reported that the Chair of BOT Gingo met with Executive Committee in September. She said it was an opportunity to share our perception of the institution that we all care deeply about. She said President Miller has consulted with Faculty Senate, University Council, and Akron AAUP on HB327 and campus safety improvements. It is good to know he shares the faculty's concern and that we can work together on such critical issues. She said the Coronavirus information page on UA's website is updated frequently and now includes "what to do if..." scenarios for faculty and students. She said she is surprised that some faculty do not always enforce University's mask wearing policy in their classrooms. She said enrollment continues to be a priority. Colleges are forming implementing action plans for recruitment and retention. She encouraged everyone to get involved to the best of their ability. She questioned the 2018 Academic Program Review process and the way it was used to make decision to de-invest in programs that hadn't been previously identified as at risk. She said on the agenda today is the report of PRC (Program Review Committee) which includes the program review for Sociology, Counseling, and Social Work. She thanked the committee and encouraged everyone to read the report. She said the report defines the problem with making the current program review process fit the requirement of section C of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Shared Governance. She said PRC, Faculty Senate EC, and Akron AAUP are working to revise the MOU to make program review a faculty driven process that gets programs in difficulty the support they need. She said the PRC's report underscores the urgent need for faculty in counseling program and encouraged the administration to take note of this recommendation and consider the needs of the counseling program in relation to the needs of other programs. She finished her remark by raising a problem that might occur in the process of approving proposals that come on the senate floor by Senate committees. On one hand she has heard senators say once a proposal reaches senate it is too late to raise questions. The assumption is that any concern will have already been cleared at the committee

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level. On the other hand she has heard committee chairs say that because committee had reservation, they brought it to the Faculty Senate to have a group with wider knowledge and experience review the proposal more intensively. She said Faculty Senate should not serve merely as a rubber stamp. She said if there are questions or comments please raise them, it takes all of us to working together to pass good academic legislation.

Secretary of EC reported that since last meeting they met three times including the meeting with Chair of BOT Gingo, President Miller, Provost Weincek and Chief of Staff Wayne Hill. Subjects discussed included: Conversations about how to tell the UA story, grow enrollment, build enthusiasm, a process of reflection and planning as part of the new goal setting process at the University, the composition of the newly ratified ad hoc Investment Criteria Committee, Assignments of open seats on UC, and implementation of the MOU on Shared Governance between the Akron AAUP and the administration. President Miller in his remark commented on large amount of time spent on issues related to off-campus safety that caused the development of an off-campus safety plan that will be shared with shared governance and other groups. He said we have had some good meetings with landlords and we'll be moving forward with a joint project with the City of Akron and County regarding electronic security in the area south of campus. He said General Council and UAPD are reviewing the mutual aid agreement for policing in that area to make sure we are optimizing the security. He reported of other plans coming into play in next weeks such as meeting with community and business leaders. He said we have been working with our legislative colleagues around HB435 vaccination masking bill that has gone back to the house and the divisive issue of HB327. He said we have had some very constructive conversations with the authors of the bill. He thanked Matt Akers who has been working with local AAUP and UC and others on campus. He said he and his wife Georgia have had extensive meetings with friends of the University who he believes can help University's programs. He mentioned the 3 million dollar gift from Timken Company to UA. He mentioned 10 listening sessions that he conducted on campus. He said there are great ideas out there and we are cataloging them and will get a summary of them to campus. He said he wants to push some of those ideas to improve enrollment. Finally he congratulated School of Law for their centennial year and said there will be a slate of activities related to that.

Provost Weincek in his remark shared his condolences to the families of those who lost life in south of campus shooting. He did not offer any statistics regarding enrollment but he said right now is recruitment season and focusing on students who are with us now. He said he has put a task force together on advising. Their first task is to look into FWA (flexible work agreement), which he agreed with their suggestions. That gives students more access to advisors. He said we are focused on getting our applications up and mentioned billboard on route 8 and TV spotlights that are coming. He said he will continue to meet with Shared Governance and Akron AAUP on regular basis and appreciated collegial conversations. He said he has put a lot of focus on planning through UPG (University Planning Group) and emphasized student safety issues and (together with President) communications across campus. He said the Investment Criteria Committee is meeting regularly and he is part of it, but he believes this should be a faculty driven process so he sits and listens most of the times. He said the deans continue to be quite active to help us to get through this path. They are working on enrollment for the next few years and with the new rollout of the new ERP (Emergency Response Plan) that will start sooner rather than later and look at the way we work here at the University. He said he is a big proponent of budget autonomy, department driven budgeting and trying to work through how that would look and feel. He talked about several large grant applications that have gone out. One is focused on economic development in polymers. If that gets approved a large pilot plan will be built on campus. Another is a large NSF grant that is focused on training graduate students. He talked about the listening sessions and ideas on campus that president also talked about. He also talked about ideas from UC. These ideas are being vetted through various Shared Governance groups.

In Committee Reports, APC reported that the committee did not support priority scheduling for students who work on campus. APC also brought a resolution on the floor that revised the rule for students who take credits at other universities. Also the resolution removed the requirement for students to demonstrate why they are taking courses elsewhere. The resolution passed.

CCTC reported that they intend to look at Security Training Awareness and they have been asked to get a policy approved by March.

CRC brought two courses and two program proposals for approval.

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Program Review Committee echoed what Chair Budd said in her remark.

AAUP representative reported that the Akron AAUP has been part of the meetings with Shared Governance regarding campus safety, vaccines, mask mandates, legislative bills and other legislative issues regarding free speech on campus. She said the administration met with Akron AAUP EC twice to inform and get feedback on university efforts. She said the Labor Management Policy Committee is working to create MOUs for new dean searches. Also they are working on solidifying workload policies in departments in effort to assess current workloads and to ensure faculty are not being overworked without compensation. Finally she said they are starting a membership drive.

Graduate Council representative submitted a report and the new bylaw of the graduate faculty. The report was regarding the College organizational changes and changes to graduate faculty to align with that. It also had to do with membership on the council and its standing committees. The motion to approve the revisions and changes was passed by the senate.

GSG representative reported of setting up a brightspace page with all grad students added to find information and communicate with grad students.

USG representative thanked the Athletic Director, President, Provost, and BOT Chair for attending the all USG meeting the week before. It was reported of a Zip Pride campaign to help students to learn more about student government.

UC representative explained the organizational structure of the University Council and how it works. He talked about one piece of information reported to UC. According to that, all staff employees with appropriate credential are eligible to teach courses and that has been the case for contract professionals. This concludes my report.

F. University & Community Service/Website: Dan reported the website is up to date except for actions taken today which will be posted quickly.

G. Scholarship: No chair and no report at this time. A scholarship recipient, Kurt Ekensten will attend the luncheon meeting in November. Ali agreed to introduce the student to attendees and see that he is seated and ushered through the buffet line.

H. Newsletter: Martha Vyereported that the upcoming newsletter is in process. As she receives reports she forwards them to the publisher, Tony Fawver. Arrangements for the conversation segment of the newsletter are underway.

VII. Old Business:

- a. Chair position for Scholarship Committee – No one has volunteered to chair the committee. The major activities occur in the spring when applicant names are forwarded to the committee for review. Committee members meet to examine the applications and make recommendations to the board. Last year three scholarships were awarded. It is assumed that a similar amount of money will be available this spring for 2022-2023 scholarships. Ali agreed to assume chair responsibilities this spring.
- b. Black, Brown, and Beyond Male Summit is scheduled for Friday April 8, 2022. It has been scaled back somewhat from last year because of funding constraints. In a conversation with Dr. Sheldon Wrice about how AUAR might support diversity efforts and this conference in particular, a book scholarship was suggested. It would be offered via a raffle the afternoon of the conference. A \$250 dollar amount was agreed upon.

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VIII. New Business

Bob Gandee is resigning from his position as a faculty senator. He is unable to participate effectively with the reliance on electronic equipment. Harvey Sterns is willing to finish out his term. A motion was made to approve the replacement of Bob Gandee by Harvey Sterns for the remainder of the present appointment which ends Spring 2022. Rita will notify the proper administrative personnel of the appointment.

IX. Adjournment: There being no further business the,meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.

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

Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022:

2021 August 26; September 23; October 28; December 2.

2022 January 27; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 23
(Photos of the board will be taken at the June meeting)