

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting October 22, 2020 Minutes
Held via Zoom**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on October 22, 2020 at 10:00 am by President Dan Sheffer.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending via Zoom or phone: Jo Ann Collier, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Neal Raber, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, and Tim Lillie
Absent with notice: Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Carl Lieberman, Tom Nichols, Laura Moss-Spitler, Dick Steiner

III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the September 24, 2020 meeting were approved with corrections: Ed Lasher attended via phone and in the Treasurer's report the previous years final balance month should read August 2019. The corrected minutes will be posted on the AUAR website.

IV. Treasurer's Report. John Heminger reported:

September 2020

UA Account income: dues \$252.00
UA Account expenses: \$0.00
Petty Cash income: \$0.00
Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

| September 2020 | UA Account | Petty Cash | Totals |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Initial balance | \$10,626.78 | \$79.40 | \$10,706.18 |
| Income | \$252.00 | \$0.00 | \$252.00 |
| Expenses | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Final balance | \$10,878.78 | \$79.40 | \$10,958.18 |
| | | | |
| September 2019 | | | |
| Final balance | \$10,196.53 | \$222.84 | \$10,419.37 |

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V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman reported she sent two sympathy cards to family members of Jaci Wilbanks and Roger Bain. Dan Sheffer asked Linda to send a card to Alie Schwartz congratulating her on her recent marriage.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Tom & Diane Vukovich reported that 10 people attended the Sesquicentennial Celebration at Wolf Creek Winery. They tuned in to the virtual celebration at 8:30 pm. Pictures were taken and sent to Martha Vye for inclusion in the newsletter along with an article about the event. Frank Thomas will be speaking at the luncheon meeting scheduled on November 18. The Christmas entertainment originally scheduled for December 16 was cancelled but options are being explored, including reaching out to the music department as well as contacting the sisters who performed last year.

B. Membership: Mel Vye reported the total number of new members is 68 with a total active membership of 227 and 295 on the books. Scholarship monies received in September - \$175.

C. Political Action. No report

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman said there was no new information to report. Dan Sheffer will post a reminder to those who have lost their insurance to sign up for insurance in the open enrollment period.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar reported:

Faculty Senate meeting October 1, 2020

Chair Saliga called the meeting to order. In her remark she reported that president Miller has responded to the Senate resolutions from August 6th. Regarding to members of Athletic Committee to serve on the Athletic Review Task Force, he has decided to include five faculty members together with twelve members from other important constituents. Regarding the discontinuation of former president Proenza's salary, he responded, "Our communications with current employees about their employment status are confidential and for professional and legal reasons cannot be influenced by Faculty Senate Resolutions." His response regarding Developmental programs was, "Developmental Programs have not been eliminated. We welcome any input from the Faculty Senate about the efficacy of the corequisite course model." The resolutions regarding the make up of the BOT and removing the members of the BOT have been sent to the corresponding State officials. She said the executive Committee is developing a survey to be distributed to the campus community to find out how the reorganization has influenced units and colleges and most importantly what impact has it had on students.

Executive Committee reported that they have had four meetings since last regular senate meeting in September, including the meeting with provost Weincek. Topics

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discussed included: Strategic planning, the composition of the OAA committee, the need to increase student enrollment, measuring faculty effectiveness, metrics for measuring programs and program success, international recruitment, following up with reorganization, a mid-semester survey for students, budgeting for large class size assistance in synchronous classes, assessment, program assessment and program review, and recommendation from GEAC.

President Miller did not attend the meeting. No comment from President.

Provost in his remarks reported that after a search that was national but confidential the University has landed on an excellent CFO. He said he has made the rounds to the colleges at least once, talking about his initial impression of the University. He mentioned Strategic planning that was put on hold, it is time to pick it up again. He said there are overlaps with other activities within OAA. Some things are not as organized as it could be. He intends to get input from Faculty Senate and University Council on what should be done to improve those and how to make it easier to communicate needs and concerns. He also said, he wants to follow up on reorganization to make sure in a 5-college model who reports to whom and who is the point of contact for programs and such. AAUP he said, is part of that conversation. At the end he talked about a mid-term survey sending out to faculty to share with their students. It is only for faculty's benefit but not for RTP.

In Committee reports, CRC brought course and program proposals to the floor for approval. Gen Ed Committee brought some changes to the General Education model. The AAUP representative asked members to complete two surveys that were sent to faculty. She said these are very important for new negotiations. She added the arbitrator's report was quite a blow to the chapter and particularly to the RIF members that are not forgotten. She added the chapter does not agree with the arbitrator's findings and the chapter intends to ask the national AAUP to investigate the shared governance practices at the University of Akron.

GSG reported activities such as October 14 Career Fair, COVID issues, future activities on job fair for students, listening to student's mental health, plan to organize mental health for grad students, and cooperating with Diversity Week.

USG representative reported that 86% of students have said they feel safe on campus. 14% have said in some specific areas they did not feel safe but not classrooms.

University Council representative reported that UC is working on an interim harassment policy.

At the end Program Review report was presented to the Senate and was approved.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan reported site is up to date.

G. Scholarship. Dan Sheffer reported on behalf of Carl Lieberman. Members of the Scholarship Committee; Bill Byer, Velma Pomrenke, and June Burton were contacted about serving as chair of the committee. They declined but all indicated a willingness to continue to serve on the committee. Tim Lillie, new at-large member of the Board has agreed to take on the position of chair. Dan

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moved to affirm Tim as Chair of the Scholarship Committee, Ali seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

H. Newsletter. Editor Martha Vye reported she is forwarding articles she receives to Tony when they are sent to her. Diane Lazzerini has stepped forward to track reported deaths for the In Memoriam section. Martha is working on possibilities for the interviewee in the upcoming newsletter and requested we forward any suggestions to her.

VII. Old Business.

No names have been forwarded to Dan to fill the vacant at-large board position. An obituary for Jaci Wilbanks has not been published yet.

Tim Lillie will assume the role of Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

VIII. New Business.

Questions have been raised about membership categories and dues. At present active members who do not pay dues are deemed inactive. They are dropped from the roster of active members after two years of nonpayment. 15 of the 68 who received second overdue notices in the regular mail sent dues. New retirees are granted membership without paying dues the first fiscal year after retirement. Spouses of deceased members are associate members who may participate in the activities of the organization. The associate membership continues with the payment of annual dues beginning the following fiscal year. Mel Vye is requesting further guidance on the timing and wording of appropriate communication about continuation of membership. There are administrative issues of software changes needed for tracking this information as well.

IX. Adjournment Martha Vye moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Collier, Recording Secretary

Next meeting will be December 3, 2020 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 27, 2021; June 24, 2021 Photos of the 2021-2022 board will be taken at the June 24, 2021 meeting.