

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting September 24, 2020 Minutes
Held via Zoom**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on **September 24, 2020** at **10:00 am** by President Dan Sheffer.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Dan welcomed those attending and noted Carl Lieberman will not be attending today because he is recuperating from an injury and would welcome notes from colleagues. His contact information will be forwarded after the meeting.

Members attending via Zoom or phone: Jo Ann Collier, Robert Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Tom Nichols, Neal Raber, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, Richard Steiner, and Tim Lillie

Excused: Cathy Edwards, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, and Laura Moss-Spitler

III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the August 27, 2020 meeting were approved with corrections. Linda Sugarman noted that in her report as corresponding secretary she sent a thinking of you note to Jaci Wilbanks.

IV. Treasurer's Report. John Heminger reported for August 2020:

AUAR Account income: dues \$72.00
 AUAR Account expenses: \$0.00
 Petty Cash income: \$0.00
 Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

August 2020	AUAR Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$10,554.78	\$79.40	\$10,634.18
Income	\$72.00	\$0.00	\$72.00
Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Final balance	\$10,626.78	\$79.40	\$10,706.18
June 2019			
Final balance	\$10,295.82	\$232.04	\$10,527.86

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V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman reported: Since our last meeting we have sent out two thinking of you cards, two sympathy cards and one get well card.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Tom & Diane Vukovich reported:

Upcoming programs for the Fall Semester are detailed in the printed newsletter. Dates are October 7, 2020, Dr. Glenn Atwood presenting a travelogue on India; and November 18, 2020, Dr. Frank Thomas presenting a program about Goodyear Aerospace's contribution to national security. Both presentations will use the Zoom format. The December 16, 2020 program is still undecided. Funds for the soup and chili supper (cancelled) will be applied to next year.

B. Membership: Mel Vye reported the total number of new members is 67 with a total active membership of 213 and 280 on the books. Scholarship donations for July totaled \$105 dollars, donations for August totaled \$45.

C. Political Action. Bob Gande reported that the Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) met last week for the first time since spring. The meeting was held using the Zoom format. Dan Sheffer served as the Zoom host of the meeting. The major topic of interest was the report from Greg Nichols of STRS.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported Neal Raber contacted the University Benefits office in regard to what was happening with retiree dependents for the bargaining unit members. The benefits office couldn't or wouldn't tell him anything.

The good news is that an individual whose health insurance has been terminated, has 60 days from the date of termination to get new insurance and may not have to worry about open enrollment dates.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar reported:

Faculty Senate Meeting September 3, 2020

Chair Saliga called the meeting to order. She welcomed everybody to the first meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year. She explained the rules of engagement that were based on Senate's bylaw and Robert's rule of Order. She mentioned that all of the meetings of the fall semester would be virtual. She finished her remark by saying that the year 2020 has been a very unusual and unpleasant year. We will spend a lot of time this year examining the changes and make sure the university continues to be the best choice for students to continue their education.

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Executive Committee reported that besides their twelve scheduled meetings, they met numerous times to discuss reorganization and other issues. The Committee also met with Provost Wiencek to discuss items such as: credit/no credit policies, reorganization and communication tools for comment, enrollment decline estimates, the Delaware Cost Study and the relationship of the study to budget allocations, implications of cuts on programs, athletics, e-sports spending, RTP processes under COVID restrictions, the process of program review and program closure, RTP processes in cases where faculty under review have been impacted by reorganization, the development of a final exam grid, the development of ad hoc committees to address reorganization issues and the organization of Office of Academic Affairs (OAA), the research grant buyout policy, updates on COVID issues, enrollment numbers, and tasks for 2020. At the end of their report, they asked the Senate to ratify those decisions that the EC had made on behalf of the Senate during the summer including the summer graduation list and several curricular proposals.

President Miller in his remark talked about exploratory group with Cleveland State University to look at integrated law program. He talked about diversity and social justice group that have been meeting. He mentioned the announcement of Athletic review task force in one week. He said the search for CFO position that was suspended because of COVID is now reengaged and are looking at candidates. He said currently 173 parties have been planned around the world to celebrate the university's 150th anniversary. Parties in Egypt, India, Canada, and US so far. October 10 will be the virtual event. Finally he talked about the fall's opening. So far it is going pretty well compared to other universities he said. We have a group looking at real time challenges and responding. He said from what I see we're getting pretty good compliance with mask rules.

Provost Wiencek in his remark talked about making rounds to colleges virtually soon. He said several vacant leadership positions are open, he wishes to fill the positions of Dean of Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences (BCAS) and Director of Polymer Science/Engineering. He said we have to organize our work to move forward. We have to eliminate many layers of permission seeking but people need to understand the rules of the road and know where we are going as a university. Data should inform us what we are doing. We need to come together to look at data and be confident in it and improve it as we go along. He said input from faculty, staff and students regarding the office of academic affairs (OAA) will be sought to see how we are organized and how they want to see us work. As a reply to a question regarding enrollment, he said most recent number shows an overall decline of %7. Transfer and freshmen are double digits and that will stay with us for a while. Rebound will take a while but they are encouraging.

Senate elections followed by provost's remark.

In Committee's report, Senate's representative in University Council (UC) reported that UC met three times during the summer. Most discussions were surrounding preparation for fall, Zip Assist program, adaptations to recruiting, and the budget.

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

G. Scholarship. Dan Sheffer said there is no formal report from Carl Lieberman. Carl has requested that he be replaced as the chairman of the Scholarship Committee. He would be willing to continue to serve on the committee. Dan asked that interested board members let him know if they are willing to fill the leadership position.

H. Newsletter. Editor Martha Vye said no one has come forward to assume responsibility for scanning obituaries of retired members of the university community and forwarding that information for the newsletter. Martha said guidelines need to be developed for inclusion in the AUAR newsletter. Tom Vukovich said he has someone in mind who currently follows obituaries and could forward that information for inclusion in the newsletter. Martha also requested that information for the newsletter be sent to her as soon as it is available so Tony Fawver could be working on possible layout and overall length all along rather than a few weeks before a deadline.

VII. Old Business. Jo Ann Collier said she had looked into some sites for seniors that might be helpful in light of topics which AUAR members said they would like to see more information about. There is a downloadable directory of some 124 sites offering lifelong learning programs for seniors in the United States through the Bernard Osher Foundation. See sps.northwestern.edu for a downloadable directory of the sites listed by state. Case Western Reserve University is one of the nearby sites offering online programs through the Siegal Learning Center.

Chatauqua Institution in SW New York State offers access to virtual presentations delivered each week of the regular summer season and there are two online platforms which provide free or minimal cost programming of presentations which were presented over the summer as well as upcoming programs.

See: chq.org
assembly.chq.org
porch.chq.org

A specific area of interest identified by some survey respondents was computer literacy as it relates to use of gmail. A site has been created by the Rochester NY director of Osher programs hosted by RIT. It is posted indefinitely and is available 24/7. See <https://sites.google.com/view/goo101/home>

VIII. New Business. Dan Sheffer requested that any recommendations for member-at-large position be sent to him. Items for the agenda of the general meeting after the October 7 presentation were discussed. Diane Vukovich noted that 9 members have

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indicated they would attend the 150th UA Anniversary event hosted by AUAR at Wolf Creek Winery on October 10, 2020.

IX. Adjournment MelVemoved to adjourn.The meeting was adjourned at10:50 am.

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

Next meeting will beOctober 22, 2020 at 10:00amvia 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 21, 2021; June 24, 2021 (Photos of the 2021-2022 board will be taken at the June 24, 2021 meeting).