

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting September 27, 2018  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

**I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on September 27th by President Neal Raber at 10:00am.**

**II. Others present included Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas.**

**III. Excused: Bob Blankenship, Ed Lasher, Pam Rupert, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, and Mel Vye.**

**IV. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the August 23, 2018 meeting were approved as corrected.**

**V. Treasurer's Report. John Heminger reported a new balance of \$10,652.17 for September. Dues collected through the month of August totaled \$564.00. Last year's balance totaled \$9,840.50. Treasurer's report was accepted subject to audit.**

**VI. Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sugarman had no report.**

**VII. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs. Neal reported on the upcoming programs for this year. Fall luncheon speakers are set. The St. Nicolas Balalaika Orchestra is confirmed for the Holiday Luncheon on December 12.**

**For Spring 2019, the February 13<sup>th</sup> speaker will be Larry Williams, UA Director of Athletics. Bob Gandee is in charge of the arrangements, introduction and newsletter article. The March 13<sup>th</sup> luncheon speaker position is still open. However, Mark Auburn would like a few minutes to talk about a book being developed about the last 50 years at UA. April 10<sup>th</sup> will feature Kathleen Fernandez who will discuss her new book about the Zoar communal society and its founding on April 15, 1817. Laura Moss-Spitler will handle all duties for the April speaker**

**Tom has already started the booking calendar for next year! The September 11<sup>th</sup> luncheon will feature Mark Auburn, discussing his new book "In the President's Home: Memories of the Akron Auburns" due to be published by UA Press in the fall.**

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**Special Events:** Neal reported that arrangements are underway for the annual Soup and Chili Supper. This theme will be continued for one more year as suggestions continue to be considered for the 2019-2020 season. Volunteers solicited at this meeting included

- **Soup:** Rita Klein
- **Chili:** Neal Raber
- **General:** Bob Gandee and possibly Ali Hajjafar

**B. Membership.** Frank Thomas reported that two e-mails and 2 US Mail notices have gone out to all remaining members who have not yet renewed their memberships. As of now, we have 387 active members with 130 of those being “new” retirees. Paid dues have been received from 257 members. Inactive members totaled 132. Frank provided address labels and letters for the Board to send a personal note to any unpaid member who they know personally urging them to renew.

**C. Political Action.** Dan Sheffer reported on the September OCHER meeting which he attended for Bob Gandee. STRS is getting feedback concerning the elimination of COLA. However, the health of our funding has improved due to this action. Discussion followed concerning whether or not COLA would be reinstated and if so how it would function. Employer/Employee contribution rates were discussed as well as Alternate Retirement Plans (ARP) across Ohio institutions. UA has the lowest % of employees opting for ARP in the entire state.

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

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

Chair Saliga called the meeting to order. In her remarks, she introduced newly elected senators and talked about the officers that are to be elected later in the meeting. She expressed her dismay about the lack of shared governance in the decision making of phasing out about 80 programs as the result of Academic program review.

Secretary of the Executive Committee in his report talked about the meetings that they have had with themselves and with President and Provost. The subject of discussions included: Interim chairs, the future of the College of Education, the University’s budget and budget reductions, admission, part-time faculty benefits, four day schedule, the upcoming sesquicentennial, academic program review, appointment of members to the ad hoc strategic planning committee, curriculum proposal system, plans for Ballet Center and Martin Center, the University’s

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**mission, faculty hires, administrative review, athletics, and program recommendations approved by the Board of Trustees (BOT).**

**Most the remarks of President Green were around the academic program review and his involvement from the beginning as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to the end as interim president charged with doing something about it. He explained how he has reached the decision of phasing out some of the programs and taking his decision straight to the BOT. He explained why that was not a violation of shared governance. He accepted the responsibility of making the final call and the BOT accepted his decisions without alteration. He said if the faculty would like these decisions modified, the person they need to persuade is he. He said people ask him what if these decisions don't pan out? He said his answer would be that an effective strategic planning process must allow for changes to curriculum. He said all of the phased out programs have significant weaknesses. If strategic planning can address these he might be disposed to reverse decisions. For the rest of his remarks, he described the strategic planning process and the fact that the University has structurally 45 million dollars deficit and it has to be resolved in three years.**

**Provost Ramsier in his remarks reported that some community colleges have started to offer four year Bachelor's degrees; especially Stark State has proposed a BA degree in management accounting. There are eleven similar programs in NE Ohio. All the Deans of business colleges in NE Ohio submitted a co-signed letter. Because of this, the Chancellor has decided to reconsider the proposal and have discussions about duplication. He mentioned that UA has a dual admission agreement near signing with Stark State. He mentioned that the two plus two concept would become more and more important. He reported that enrollment is right on the projection so the budget numbers will hold. He said in 2018 the university has had 400 preparatory students. This year we have none. Some of such students were deferred to Wayne College. He urged the faculty to share study abroad ideas.**

**At this time Senate elections were conducted, and finally a few oral and written committee reports were presented.**

**After Ali's formal report was given, an informal discussion ensued concerning the recent program cuts.**

**F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer will make all needed updates and corrections to the website.**

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**G. Scholarship.** Carl Lieberman reported that he has invited the scholarship recipients to attend an AUAR luncheon. Lucas Bloom has reported a class conflict with the timing of the luncheon. He has not yet had a response from Cierra Simmons.

Carl also reported a scholarship fund balance of \$114,079 in September. Recent gifts to the endowment from July until the present totaled \$3,853.

**H. Newsletter.** Neal reported in Pam's absence that the fall newsletter is out and that a mid-December deadline has been set for the spring issue.

**VIII. Unfinished Business. None.**

**IX. New Business. None.**

**X. Adjournment:** Neal reminded all that the next luncheon will be held in Station B, rather than our usual room. We should enter from the Hotel side of the building. Meeting adjourned at 11:20a.

Respectfully submitted:  
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary

**Next Executive Board Meeting:  
October 25, 2018.  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**