

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting September 26, 2019
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on September 26, 2019 by President Dan Sheffer at 9:30am.

II. Present. Bob Blankenship, Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss Spitler, Tom Nichols, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas.

III.Excused: Mel Vye, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich and Loren Hoch

IV. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the August 22, 2019 were approved as amended. Corrected period to comma in the Scholarship report (116,629).

V. Treasurer's Report. John Heminger reported: income was membership dues, expenses were for OCHER and annual appreciation lunch for HR.

August 2019 AUAR Account		August 2019 Petty Cash	
Initial Balance	10,100.50	Initial Balance	232.04
Income	444.00	Income	
Expenses	248.68	Expenses	
Final Balance	10,295.82	Final Balance	232.04
August 2018 Final Bal	10,652.17		

VI. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman – no report.

VII. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. Dan reported for Tom and Diane – A speaker has been secured for February 12, 2020: Bill Brauning will present “Hooray for Hollywood Dancers”. April 8, 2020 is still open; hoping to get President Miller if his schedule allows.

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B. Membership. Frank Thomas reported. Will bring unpaid members list for all to review at next meeting.

Membership as of August 2019	
New (comp)	159
Active (paid)	256
Inactive (unpaid)	50
Total on Books	465
2019-20 Total Gift Income for Scholarship	\$2,200

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee – OCHER conference: OPERS is following changes STRS made years ago changing years and other retirement requirements. OPERS is also holding the COLA for 2 years. Dan asked OCHER about SERS. Steve Howe (OCHER) and Dan contacted SERS and said that SERS is willing to provide informative meetings for members. We decided not to request such a meeting at this time.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman – no report

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar reported
Senate Meeting Report, September 2019

Chair Saliga called the meeting to order and welcomed members to the senate meeting of a new academic year in a new place (room 180, the court room of the School of Law). She introduced the newly and reelected members of the senate and explained the rules of engagement during the meetings. She said among the agenda for the day is elections of some members for the Executive committee of the senate, senate representatives to the University Council, senate representatives to Graduate Council, and representatives to the Ohio Faculty Council. She mentioned of the actions that happened during the summer including selection of the 18-th president of the University, a new curriculum proposal system was brought online, a report on student retention and persistence was written, new guidelines for workload policies were developed, and an ad-hoc committee called tiger team completed its work and is bringing recommendations for the improvement of retention, persistence, and graduation rate. She mentioned the final version of workload policy still has concerns. Its timeline is too rushed and the intent of its exercise is simply to increase the teaching load of tenured and tenure-track faculty. She complained about the part-time faculty salaries. She said considering the time that they have to spend for teaching a course, the university pays to a newly hired part-time faculty about \$13.33 per hour.

Executive Committee reported that they met nine times since the last regular senate meeting including meetings with interim president and CAO. The topic of discussions included: The role of CAO and CDO and responsibilities associated

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with both positions, certifying senate elections, workload policy, committee appointments, problems with tuition for Wayne College students taking online classes, tuition issues, faculty hires, changes made to the policy by administration to remove NTTs from departmental averages, Tiger Team report, and approving course proposals submitted to the EC by CRC committee. They brought a motion to the floor for senate to approve all such course proposals. Motion passed.

Interim President Green announced the selection of Gary Miller as the 18-th president of the University and said he will be assuming office on October first. He thanked the BOT, Members of the search Committee and all of those who provided comments in the process. He said he is working with president Miller for a smooth transition. He reported that overall decline of enrollment is about 6%. This is 3% higher than what was projected. However the enrollment of new students is flat in compare with that of 2018. He said that we need to improve our persistence rate. He said we have to effectively implement the good ideas presented by the report of the joint task forces on retention and persistence. He said he has authorized searches for 17 faculty members in critical areas of investment. He mentioned that the University needs to invest in leadership positions as well including a CAO and four new Deans. At the end of his remarks, he talked about his conversation with the new president regarding the newly drafted workload policy and explained extensively the importance of its implementation. There were many questions regarding the disagreement between full time faculty and interim president who believes workload is a management right unless it is consulted by bargaining.

CAO in his remark reported that in the budgetary meetings one million dollar were set aside for faculty hires. Deans requested 80 positions. After some compromise, 17 positions were approved. He elaborated on the breakdown of the positions and answered many questions in that regard. Next, elections were performed.

In committee reports, CRC reported that in their first meeting, a Chair was elected. The elected Chair asked for approval of the last of proposals from old system. Motion passed.

Senator Heather Howley brought a motion to the floor for approval of the Tiger Team report, which was already sent to the senators by email. She said that the members of the committee are willing to talk to faculty about retention and emphasized that some of the recommendations in the report are applicable right now. She recommended that senators read the report and share it with their colleagues. Report adopted without dissent.

A representative to UC talked about the meetings that UC had during the summer. Topics covered included: Rec and wellness center, reviewed budget with CFO, heard from text book ad hoc committee, update on the bridge between Auburn Science and Engineering building and student union that will be open in October, and student health insurance issues where the provider went bankrupt. International students are OK. The University is looking for a provider for undergraduate and graduate students.

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AAUP president asked if the senate would approve for AAUP to give a report in each senate meeting. The request was approved.
In new business some clarifications of previously discussed topics were given.
Finally one senator recommended that the members of administration might help in teaching classes. The discussions were postponed to the next meeting.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan reported website is up to date. Newsletter has been posted.

G. Scholarship. Carl Leiberman – Approximate assets of \$119,400; up about \$2,800 since last report.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert – newsletter is out. Next newsletter will come out end of January. Still looking for someone to take over newsletter.

VIII. Unfinished Business. Upcoming vacancies, please consider possible individuals to fill these roles:

Newsletter: need assistant for a period of training that will eventually take over.
Membership: Frank retiring from AUAR board at the end of the year (12/2019).

IX. New Business.

A. President Miller to visit AUAR Board at our February 27, 2020 meeting.

B. October 9, 2019 General Meeting Agenda – treasurer report, membership report and announcements about what is coming up.

C. Neal Raber will take photo's at October Lunch.

X. Adjournment at 10:24am

Respectfully submitted:
Cathy Edwards, Recording Secretary

Next Executive Board Meeting:
October 24, 2019.
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