

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting December 6, 2018
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

- I. **Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on December 6th by President Neal Raber at 10:34 am.

- II. **Others present included** Bob Blankenship, Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas, Diane Vukovich, and Tom Vukovich.

- III. **Excused:** Mel Vye

- IV. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the October 25th Board Meeting were approved as corrected and the minutes of the November 14th General Meeting were approved as mailed.

- V. **Treasurer's Report.** John Heminger reported a balance of \$10,271.37 as of the end of October which compared closely to the balance a year ago of \$10,411.85. A withdrawal has been made to maintain our "Petty Cash" account of \$300. Our total revenue for October and the 1st week of November was \$1,012.00 which included dues and proceeds from the last luncheon.

- VI. **Corresponding Secretary:** Linda Sugarman reported sending 5 sympathy cards to the following: Patricia D'Amico on the death of her husband, Michael; Phyllis Knepper on the death of her husband, George; James Grover on the death of his wife, Jane; Sue Olive on the death of her husband, John; and Joe Edminister on the death of his wife, Nina. A "thank you" was sent to Bob and Georgia Richie for donating the proceeds of the Chili Supper 50/50 raffle to the AUAR scholarship fund.

- VII. **Committee Reports.**
 - A. **Programs.** Tom Vukovich reported that the Considine luncheon in November went very well and was enjoyed by all. He also noted that everything is set for the upcoming December 12th Holiday Luncheon.

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Special Events: Tom and Diane Vukovich reported that the Soup and Chili Supper this year was an excellent event. We had several new faces join us as well! AUAR lost \$50 on this event once all the expenses were tallied. Therefore we may need to raise the price to \$6 per person next year for those not bringing a dish to share.

Tom and Diane are working on our Annual Retirees Road Trip on April 26th. They are focusing on unusual things in and around Akron that do not as a rule allow visitors on a regular basis. More will be reported at future meetings.

B. Membership. Frank Thomas reported a total active membership of 422. This number includes 130 free new members (1st year of retirement) and 292 paid members. We currently have 86 members inactive (have not paid dues as yet) and 50 of those are from the 2017-18 list of new retirees. Inactive members are dropped after two years of inactivity.

Frank also noted that the total income this academic year for the UA Foundation (AUAR scholarship) that comes in along with our dues notice is \$4,159.00.

C. Political Action. Dan Sheffer attended the OCHER meeting and reported the following topics discussed: Legislative News (all is well), Alternative Retirement options, the expenses of STRS and OPERS, and the COLA report. Many members are hoping that COLA will be reinstated as a priority, however, with many competing factors at play the fiduciary responsibility for Board Members is what is stressed.

Dan noted that OCHER's contact list was very outdated and Dan gave them current information for UA. Dan will research SERS to see who represents them since they are not included in OCHER.

Neal Raber reported that POP5 has all retirement systems represented and he shared more information from the recent POP5 newsletter. Currently POP5 has 22,250 paid memberships.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported that the premiums for Retiree Dependents will rise to 18% or the plan cost on January 1, 2019. For Retiree Dependents under 65 the costs will be \$149 for spouse, \$134 for children and \$283 for both spouse and children. For Retiree Dependents over 65 the costs will be \$77 for the spouse and \$211 for spouse and children.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar gave the following report:

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November Senate Report 2018

Chair Saliga called the meeting to order. In her remarks she reported that since the last senate meeting, the final report from the Administrative Activities Review (AAR) was released. She pointed out that no instantaneous action was taken on this report unlike the instantaneous actions that effected students from elimination of 80 programs right after the Academic Program Review (APR). She described how administration failed shared governance for their action toward APR. Referring to AAR, she said she is hopeful that reallocation of resources and budget cuts will be implemented next year, using the three-year plan. She emphasized that we are assuming a \$45 million deficit for the next year with \$37 million from general fund going to auxiliary services. This is the money spent on departments that are supposed to be self-sufficient. She suggested that the majority of the budgetary cuts should be in the auxiliary services with major scrutiny given to auxiliary services. She continued her remarks by explaining the effect of the elimination of programs on students and reminded everyone about the previous resolution brought by APC. She requested that the administration provide to each unit the complete rational for suspending admission to and phasing out the units program.

The Secretary of the Executive Committee (EC) reported that since the last meeting they have met three times including a meeting with the acting President, Provost and CFO to discuss the subject of effective shared governance, specifically the difference between shared-decision making and consultation. EC used the APR process to highlight differences in interpretation of effective consultation. CFO discussed the University Council's Budget Committee as an example of effective governance. Other subjects discussed were open seats on University Council, certification of elections, AAR, athletics, the strategic three year plan, formative cyclical program review, and posting a synopsis of Senate actions and discussed topics in the Digest report.

The acting President in his remarks, expressed optimism with regard to the presidential search, the strategic action plan, and the discussion of shared governance. He discussed the need to find good candidates that are passionate about The University of Akron. He highlighted the important role of the action plan in the presidential search and the immediate effect on the budget. He explained the time line and process of completion of the action plan. He described the strategic action plan process as a positive step forward in shared governance. He expressed a need to develop some operational terms and consensus on the meaning of governance. He moved on to the implication of AAR. He promised that all units would be asked to make budget adjustments including auxiliary services. He said he misunderstood the previous resolution regarding uncoded students and promised to fix it. He said he was in discussion with faculty regarding APC's resolution on the APR until the issue was taken up by AAUP and then there need to be a new process.

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The Provost in his remarks reported that the AAR report showed that the campus is efficient and thinly staffed. He has yet to decide if certain areas would be reconsolidated in central units or if it would be better to leave them dispersed. He stated that the three-year action plan would determine these decisions. Monetization of some assets was mentioned and the administration is looking for a mechanism to have some facilities managed by outside entities. He mentioned that Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) is working to develop a better curriculum proposal system. He talked about enrollment that has a positive outlook. He mentioned a new enrollment plan for in State and out of State students.

Other committee reports and actions included a list of graduates for Fall 2018 which was approved; curriculum proposals presented by CRC which were approved; an APC updated resolution regarding eliminated programs showing how shared governance was violated; and the University Council representative reported subjects discussed in the council included retention initiative, university achievement awards, and quality child care for children of students, faculty and staff. The Graduate Council representative reported that the implementation of the new graduate faculty status has been a major topic for discussion.

On November 29th the senate had a special meeting on the three-year action plan. There the Provost commented on changes in presidential search process. A major change is that the identity of candidates will remain confidential. Acting President Green presented the three-year action plan and entertained questions. The Senate approved a resolution brought by the Executive Committee objecting to some of the administration's actions on the process of preparing and submitting the plan to the senate.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer reported that he will be updating the AUAR website with the speakers for spring semester.

G. Scholarship. Carl Leiberman noted that he had received a report from Jason Sanders. The current market value of our account is at \$117,916. Our award account currently holds \$4,862.52. We may need to consider reducing our scholarship amounts next year due to stock market worries.

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H. **Newsletter.** Pam Rupert reported that Tony has incorporated all the information we have accumulated for the Spring issue of the Newsletter. It should be out early in January.

VIII. **Old Business.** Neal Raber gave an update on the 50/50 raffle statistics. Sales leaders are currently Diane Vukovich and Bob Gandee with \$124 worth of tickets sold at a single event. Our profit from the raffle totals \$967.50 while 61.3% of the raffle winners have been AUAR Board members!

IX. **New Business.** The AUAR Board received a Special Guest, Anne Hanson, who is heading up the Sesquicentennial Committee for UA. She discussed the projected year-long time table of events beginning in May 2020 while students are still on campus and culminating the following May.

Goals guiding this committee include focusing on the history of UA, the achievements of all connected with UA, our impact on the community, region, and world, and lastly the future of UA.

She invited all to consider helping on one of several work committees who are bringing this grand celebration together.

X. **Adjournment at 11:51 pm.**

Respectfully submitted:
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary

**Next Executive Board Meeting:
January 24, 2019.
InfoCision Stadium (Room T.B.A.)**