

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting April 22, 2021 Minutes  
Held via Zoom**

**I. Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on April 22, 2021 at 10:02 am by President Dan Sheffer.

**II. Welcome & Announcements:** Plans for Founders Day have not been announced. This event provides an opportunity to introduce the incoming president of AUAR to the retiring faculty and other members of the university community.

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

**III. Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report.** John Heminger reported:

**March 2021**

UA Account income: dues \$84.00  
UA Account expenses: postage \$43.01, Tom Vukovich: speaker mailings & supplies \$35.61, Print Services: copying \$126.82, Dan Sheffer: Zoom \$160.02  
Petty Cash income: \$0.00  
Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	<b>UA Account</b>	<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Initial balance	\$8,672.03	\$79.40	\$8,751.43
Income	\$84.00	\$0.00	\$84.00
Expenses	\$365.46	\$0.00	\$365.46
Final balance	\$8,390.57	\$79.40	\$8,469.97
March 2020			
Final balance	\$9,162.81	\$254.40	\$9,417.21

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The treasurer's report was approved subject to audit

**V. Corresponding Secretary.** No report

**VI. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs:** Tom & Diane Vukovich reported that the presentation by Dr. Anthony Sterns, filling in at the last minute for his father Dr. Harvey Sterns, was well received. The virtual program was attended by 40 people. This was the last presentation of the Spring semester.

President Miller has rescheduled his planned presentation in September to Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. More information is needed about potential costs and technical support for continuing virtual presentation of programs along with in-person luncheon programming. Ideas for possible program topics were discussed with many suggestions flowing from the presentation by Tony Sterns as well as earlier presentations.

**B. Membership:** Mel Vye reported there are 68 new members, 244 active members and a total of 312 members on the books. There is a 38% decline in membership from the previous year. Scholarship donations of \$18.00 were received.

**C. Political Action.** No report

**D. Benefits.** No report. Linda Sugarman noted there is an STRS members forum on Facebook which details activities of interest to retirees.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Ali Hajjafar reported:

**Faculty Senate Meeting April 1, 2021**

Chair Saliga called the meeting to order. In her remark, she mentioned that president Miller has responded to last month actions by sending curricular proposals to OAA, senate bylaw changes to BOT, and the resolution regarding part-time faculty pay to OAA and asked the provost to review the issue with Human Resources. She also talked about the items that were going to be presented to the body by different senate committees. The list of graduates for spring 2021 was approved.

Executive Committee reported that since last regular meeting they met twice including the meeting with Provost Wienceck and Chief of Staff Hendricks. Subjects discussed included: formation of a committee for fall reopening plan, instructional capacity, how to count instructional full-time equivalents, faculty workload, market analysis for new and existing programs, public relations campaign aimed at supporting enrollment and retention efforts and generating positive press, the Zips Affordability scholarships, summer gateway program, representation on the Ohio Faculty Council, election of senate officers, Fall 2021 senate meetings, and need for a faculty handbook. EC recommended that election of Executive Committee officers be moved to the month of

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May meeting. Finally the EC recommended that faculty be lenient to students' absences from class for vaccination appointments.

President Miller in his remark congratulated Sheldon Wrice and his group for conducting the Black Male Summit successfully. He said the athletic working group should have a couple of more meetings and then finalize their report. He also thanked those who have been working hard to keep the university open, especially testing and health issues group. There were a few questions regarding requiring students and faculty to be vaccinated. The answer was we couldn't require it because the vaccines are for emergency use.

Provost Wienceck in his remark also thanked Sheldon Wrice and his group who held Black Male Summit. He added it is truly a gem and University is proud to have this event. He talked about a taskforce for collecting information on vaccination and surveying the community on key points and information for moving into fall. He said if we have documented evidence that we have 95% faculty immunization and 85% students, the county health department would be more amenable to our plans but if we see lower numbers we might have to go to the health department for guidance. He updated the senate on searches. He said College of Business dean search continues. Three strong candidates have visited. He was optimistic that he would announce a name by the end of the semester. Polymer Engineering and Polymer Science dean search is ongoing. A candidate is coming to campus soon. VP for Research search is in progress. On enrollment he said, applications are down 13-14% for the year but students meeting our admission criteria is smaller at 4%. He elaborated on how the University is focused on getting those students to choose the University of Akron. They include regional students who need significant financial aid. May also be eligible for Pell grant. Based on these facts, the University has made the decision to move forward with Zips Affordability Scholarships. He finished his remark by asking faculty to encourage students to get vaccine and give students excuse from class to get vaccine.

In Committee Reports, APC brought four motions to the floor. The first motion was regarding the consolidation and name changes proposed by the faculty of the University Libraries. Consolidation and re-naming involves

1. Structurally organizing non-administrative University Libraries faculty into a single University Libraries Faculty unit reporting up through the Associate Dean for Technical Services with the name changed with the designation University Libraries Faculty;
2. Consolidating staff, contract professionals, and coordination of services from Access Services, Research & Learning Services, and Science & Technology Library units into a single centralized unit reporting up through the Assistant Dean for Public Services and Facilities with the designation University Libraries Public Services;
3. Changing the name of *Archival Services* to *Archives and Special Collections*; and
4. Changing the name of *Electronic Services* to *Technical Services*.

The second motion was regarding the change of the name of the Center for IT& E Business (CITE) of the College of Business to the Center for IT & Analytics (CITA). The third motion was regarding the transfer of the Classics program and its full-time faculty member from Anthropology Department to History Department. The fourth motion was

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regarding the establishment of the Center for Financial Wellness in the College of Business. All four motions passed without dissent. CRC brought 34 course proposals and 21 program proposals to the floor, which were approved without dissent. CRC also requested the endorsement of a pause on Theater and Public Administration and Urban Studies programs. It was approved without dissent. AAUP representative reported of their meetings about developing a memorandum of understanding and reminded senators about the fund for RIF'd faculty. Graduate Council representative reported of their meetings regarding revising the vision and mission strategies along with identifying strategies for recruitment, admission and retention. It was announced that like last year the annual Graduate Faculty meeting will be replaced by written reports posted on the Graduate School website. GSG representative reported of updated GSG bylaws and announced that registration for elections for next year is under way. USG representative reported that USG is working on trustee selection process and elections are being announced soon including student senators. He said projects are being planned to keep students involved when we go virtual after spring break. University Council representative said what is being discussed in the senate is being discussed in UC as well.

**F. University & Community Service/Website.** Dan Sheffer reported the site is up to date. He will work with Mel Vye on updating the membership brochure.

**G. Scholarship.** Dan Sheffer reported on behalf of Tim Lillie, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Names of eligible students have been requested from the Financial Aid Office. These names will be forwarded to members of the Scholarship Committee for review and recommendations. The amount available for awards is assumed to be \$5,000.00 which would enable the funding of two scholarships.

**H. Newsletter.** Editor Martha Vyerequested suggestions for interviewees in the upcoming newsletter to be published at the beginning of the Fall semester.

**VII. Old Business.**

Report of the Nominating Committee

Richard Steiner reported the ballot had been emailed or snail mailed to the membership and no additional names had been received. The committee moved the ballot be approved. The motion passed without dissent.

**VIII. New Business.** None

**IX. Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

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

**Next meeting will be May 20, 2021 at 10:00am via Zoom**

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- 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 20, 2021; June 24, 2021 (Photos of the 2021-2022 board will be taken at the June 24, 2021 meeting).