

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting May 26,2022Minutes  
Held in person and Zoom audio**

**I. Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on May 26,2022by President Rita Klein at 10:02 am.

**II. Welcome &Announcements:**

Members attending: Jo Ann Collier, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Tom Nichols (audio), Dan Sheffer, Laura Spitler (audio), Dick Steiner, Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman, Mary Verstraete, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, Martha Vye, Mel Vye.

Absent with notice: Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjfar. Absent: Tim Lillie.

\*\*\* Soon after the meeting began, the internet connection was lost and members attending via Zoom audio were disconnected.

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the General Membership meeting of April 20, 2022 were approved with one correction: AUAR Treasury instead of AUAR ~~account~~ in the Treasurer's report.

The minutes of the April 28, 2022Executive Board meeting were amended to say:

1. That the Canton Palace Theater was part of the tour though the original planned performance was unavailable that day;
2. The slate of candidates for open positions on the Executive Board was brought forward by the Nominations Committee and was approved by acclamation.

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

**April 2022**

UA Account income: dues \$12.00, luncheon proceeds \$228.00.

UA Account expenses: luncheon \$421.35.

Petty Cash income: luncheon proceeds \$250.00.

Petty Cash expenses: D. Vukovich: 1) Fall 2022 Soup & Chili room reservation \$170.00 2) luncheon speaker gifts \$46.95.

Road Trip: Income: \$1586.00; Expenses: \$1586.00.

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals

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Initial balance	\$8,492.26	\$243.99	\$8,736.25
Income	\$240.00	\$250.00	\$490.00
Expenses	\$421.35	\$216.95	\$638.30
Final balance	\$8,310.91	\$277.04	\$8,587.95
Final Balance			
April 2021	\$8,450.57	\$79.40	\$8,529.97

The report was approved subject to audit.

**V. Corresponding Secretary.** Linda Sugarman reported she sent a get well card to Sue Larson. She read a note of appreciation from the family of Bob Blankenship for the note of sympathy from the board.

**VI. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs:** Tom Vukovich reported:

1. Dates for luncheon programs in the upcoming year are:
  - September 21 2022
  - October 19, 2022
  - November 16, 2022
  - December 21, 2022                      Holiday entertainment
  - February 15, 2023
  - March 15, 2023
  - April, 19, 2023

Other events

- November 3, 2022                      Soup and Chili supper
- April 21 or 26, 2023                      Road trip
- May 19, 2023                              Lobster and Suds

Expenses for Lobster and Suds have risen and the number of attendees has decreased. The recent event held May 20, 2022 had the fewest attendees in the last three years. The Executive Board approved one-time reimbursement if expenses exceeded income at the February 24, 2022 Board meeting. It is time to investigate ways to increase the number of people attending and other less expensive venues.

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**B. Membership:** Mel Vye reported the new membership brochure was developed and reflects changes in dues payment options. Additional formatting is needed. Pre-printed AUAR stationery is available in the Human Resources office from Ms Allie Schwartz. Dan Sheffer and Mary Verstraete volunteered to help with the formatting issues. A mailing is planned for mid-June.

**C. Political Action.** Dan Sheffer reported he attended an on-line meeting of OCHER last week. A website devoted specifically for OCHER has been developed which retirees will be able to access: [www.ocheroh.org](http://www.ocheroh.org).

He described key features of the legislative report given by STRS which are of particular interest to retirees. Several bills are still in the House. Two of special interest are HB 601 and HB 552. They relate to guaranteeing an annual COLA and increasing employer contributions for active teachers. Even if approved by the House, it is doubtful, they would pass in the Senate. State legislators are clearly listening to stakeholders, including special interest groups. At the federal level there are Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) bills in both the House and the Senate. The feeling is that there may be some movement on the percentage of offset but it will not be repealed. OPERS also faces legislative difficulties but their pension funds have a very different history of management.

Greg Nichols of STRS talked about upcoming 2023 health care premiums which will be decreased because of reduced claims. Express Scripts is changing its network of preferred pharmacies.

In the recent election of representatives to the STRS board, the balance of active and retired teachers is shifting to those with an increased focus on increasing COLAs, despite possible affects on the long-term viability of the system.

**D Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported: Parking has set up online free registration for parking permits. You need to know your employee number to use the online process. That number is on your Zip card. If you don't have one you can call Parking at 330-7213. Rita, Tom, Dan, and I will develop simplified instructions to be distributed soon.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Harvey Sterns read excerpts of the draft of the May 5, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting and asked that the text be appended to the AUAR meeting minutes.

**F. University & Community Service/Website.** Dan Sheffer said it will be up to date as soon as he can enter the latest information.

**G. Scholarship.** Chair position is open and will hopefully be filled by a member of the AUAR Board.

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**H. Newsletter.** Martha Vye reported the Fall newsletter is ongoing; she forwards materials as soon as they are received. The newsletter will be mailed in late August. The deadline for submissions is August 15. Photos are welcome.

**VII. Old Business**

Tom Vukovich described the “thank you” luncheon for various staff around the university who have assisted some on the board in carrying out their responsibilities. Frank Thomas used to organize it. He would pay for everyone; board members attending would reimburse him for their own meals. Frank then submitted the necessary paperwork to the AUAR Treasurer for reimbursement of the invited guest’s expenses. Tom said he would get the names of helpful staff to invite from board members and make arrangements, presumably in August. Give Tom any suggestions you have soon.

**VIII. New Business.** None.

**IX. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

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

**Next meeting will be June 23, 2022 in person/via Zoom at 10:00am in Infocision Board Room**

- Meeting Schedule for 2021-22:
  - 2021 August 26; September 23; October 28; December 2
  - 2022 January 27; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 23
    - Photos of the board taken at the June meeting

**DRAFT of FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
FS meeting May 5, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 3:01 pm

Agenda

President detained, will give remarks when he arrives.

Agenda adopted.

Minutes

Minutes adopted as distributed.

Remarks of chair

Welcome to the final faculty senate meeting of the Spring semester. Senators who wish to be recognized should type “request” into the chat window and wait for me to recognize you. To preserve bandwidth for all, turn off your mics and cameras until you are called on to speak.

As mentioned previously, please be aware that both senate meetings and minutes are part of the public record, and members of the media are in attendance.

We have a full agenda today, so I will keep my remarks short.

Today, the Ad hoc Investment Criteria Committee will recommend the criteria to be used by the Academic Investment Committee when making recommendations to this body regarding investment in

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academic programs. I appreciate the thoughtfulness of the recommendations of the ICC, and believe their criteria will allow the AIC to make a fair comparison of different programs' needs. It was not an easy task to find criteria that would allow our diverse programs to be considered fairly, according to their discipline standards and with regards to the needs of the University as a whole. I thank Adam Smith and the rest of the committee for their work. For those of you interested in serving on the Academic Investment Committee in the fall, click on "forms" on the faculty senate home page to find the senate committee assignments form. You can also contact me directly with nominations or self-nominations. The FSEC would like healthy representation from across the campus, and we anticipate appointing approximately eight members to the committee. We are looking in particular for individuals who will consider the needs of programs relative to the University as a whole.

We will also be holding the election for the position of Secretary to the Executive Committee during this meeting. For anybody interested in serving on the Executive Committee in a different capacity, we will have more elections in the fall, including an election for the remaining year of the term for Vice Chair. I am very sorry we are losing Adam Smith, and I thank him for his contributions to the work of the EC and wish him the best in his new position at Texas Tech University. I would also like to thank Linda Saliga who is finishing her term on the EC as Past Chair. Linda has been tremendously supportive and I couldn't have asked for better guidance and help. Please make sure to congratulate Linda on her new appointment as Chair of the Math department if you see her around campus.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for the work you've done this year. We've had a tough couple of years, and you've continued to go above and beyond for your students, programs and our University. We've all been working to find ways to support our students and their needs through the pandemic, but we mustn't forget to take care of our own. For most of us, summer is not a time for slowing down, even if you aren't teaching - you'll head for your labs, offices and studios to immerse yourself completely in your research agenda. Perhaps you plan to work on your curriculum, finish a committee assignment or work your way through a pile of newly published texts to prepare for your classes in the fall. For the academic advisors, administrators and other staff and contract professionals, you may barely see a difference between spring and summer as you continue to serve our students and university. But I hope that with the warmer weather you are all able to take a bit of time for yourselves to rest, repair and recharge. You've certainly earned it, and hopefully Ohio will make up for the prolonged winter with a glorious summer.

Special Announcements

none

EC report

Since our last meeting in April, the Executive Committee has met three times.

The provost joined us for one of those meetings.

We discussed enrollment, certified election results and discussed implementation of the MOU on shared governance.

With the provost, we discussed implementation of the advising task force recommendations and the role of senate, the launch of the Academic Investment Committee in Fall 2022, and the potential for DFW rates for all courses to be displayed on a dashboard accessible to faculty as part of potential retention efforts.

The EC followed up on previous discussions of proposed changes to the part-time faculty university rule.

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The EC is also planning for the composition of the Academic Investment Committee with appropriate representation from colleges and disciplines. The committee will be available for senators when submitting their requested committee assignments for next academic year.

For more information on these discussions, please contact Angela Hartsock.

Election for Secretary of Senate

Nominations:

Angela Hartsock

Motion to close nominations and elect by acclamation by Saliga, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Franks.

Hartsock elected Secretary.

Remarks of the President

Miller – good afternoon, glad to be with you.

Coming to end of semester, commencement Saturday, hope some of you can get to come. Also hope you get some time to reset and recover over the summer, spend time with your family. One 81 year old grad and one 79 year old, and one HS grad who will receive a degree as well.

Been an interesting season of celebrations after emerging from mask mandate. Met with many students, faculty and staff in person. Staff awards ceremony tomorrow. Hope you go to come to some of the celebrations because our students are great and they are well educated and love the institution. Inaugural arts committee met recently, assembled to help us raise funds for all the arts and literature at the university. They will be our advisory group as we work to get the school of art into a new building. BCAS held reception that was well attended and right after the meeting of their advisory council that dean Mitchell set up. Student exhibits were very interesting at the event. Simonetti breakfast was 4/27, well attended event in the Student union, inspirational remarks from alumni award winners. Georgia and I attend the Polymer Science awards in the Union, great to see those students. Williams Honors College awards was last night, best part was reading their thesis titles and where they are going, 3 going to work at the lighter than air facility at the Airdock. Announced a new expansion out there as well, LTA association was started by the faculty and students of Engineering and they will be building in the Airdock the worlds largest vehicle for flying, project leader is an Akron grad. Most of their technical staff are graduates. Got to see students in action at the Chamber meeting and Rep. Cross has supported the Grow Act, to develop talent in Ohio, were there with all higher eds in region and brought two students with us. Grace and JP were with us, got into conversation with Rep. Cross and answered questions about why students would stay or leave the state and I was very proud of them.

Hope to see some of you Saturday and wish you some time to recharge.

Questions

None

Remarks of the Provost

Wiencek – glad to be with you. Another great year, appreciate everyone's efforts. This was a successful year.

Enrollment – have been tracking activities and reporting to the Board, focused on things that are great and that we have checked off this year. FS was a big part of that, voting on Stellic, providing test admissions, good work of this body over the year. We go many students back who had left and we are very proud of that. Enrollment currently holding its ground, tracking about the same as last year.

Opportunity now is to keep our students who have confirmed enrolled in classes. We lost quite a few last summer and hope to keep those this year. Hoping for a less difficult summer this year. Hope for

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good numbers in the fall. Transfers are up. Good news for fall is hoped. Appreciate all the hard work of this body to help with that. Being proactive with our students.

We continue to come to the end of many searches, one of our leaders is with us, Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval is with us, new VP for enrollment management is onboard now, looking forward to having Steve here to help with our outreach with scholarships and such. Great experience at other schools.

Menzemer accepted position of Dean. Two searches concluding this week, have spoken to them and optimistic about those. 11 high level searches this year, 8 successfully done. Hope to get a couple more before the end of the year. Great outcome. Maintaining standards.

Early next week announcement on positions.

Three provost fellows joining us to help with accreditation issues and oversight of the strategic plan. AKR implementation as well. Angela Hartsock, Matt Juravich, Erin Makarius joining us to work with Susan Hanlon and then me through the summer. Ready to roll out the plan in the Fall, where we are and how we will start the next 2-year plan. Rigorous pace from here on out. Continue to refresh the plan.

Final things- commencement, hope to see you there, school of Law commencement next weekend. We are slated to have a reaffirmation visit from HLC in early September, look for ways to educate yourself about the process and how you might be able to participate. Important to understand because this is chance for us to reflect on our mission and how we carry out our work. Only way to do that is to understand our shortcomings. Strategic plan comes into play here, federal government looks at our accreditations for federal dollars. This is vitally important for the university, good reason to do this. Urge you to learn more about it and to participate when given the opportunity to do so. Lead contact is Cher Hendricks, coordinating efforts and writing documents.

Questions

Evans – hiring of VPs, talk about plans going forward for hiring faculty and more staff. We're shorthanded across campus.

Provost – looking at making sure we return the dollars we have back into the university. Investment committee will help us look at where to invest the dollars we have. Think we're making good strides there, but I get what you're saying. We're all feeling that pinch with staffing but can't rush to hire a bunch of people we can't afford. Working very hard on this. Just met this morning to talk about when we can start hiring more people on campus.

Miller – same question on our mind, planning talking about it. Dallas meeting with Deans and talking about their staffing needs, going forward there will be a lot more discussion about that. Getting the right staffing is important and in the right place. We need to do that.

Provost – Deans are providing information on all staffing, faculty, staff, CPs.

Committee reports

*APC*

Klein – Portfolio based prior learning assessment –

Miller – appreciate effort on this, good tool and agree it works better in some areas than others, thank you for that.

Evans – question from faculty about policy, how will this be administered across the university, different from one unit to next, how will this be overseen.

Klein – administered similar to CLEP exams, Joe can speak to that. Discussed should there be a cap on this, we don't cap others. Don't anticipate people generating a ton of credits with this. Takes credit hours for a specific course. Would have to coincide with something offered.

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Minocchi – each academic unit is unique so portfolios will be very different between colleges. Hesitant to regulate that. Could put forward examples once we know what they look like. Would be regulated similarly to CLEP, did not want to decide fees either. Each dept are their content experts and would decide if the portfolio is valid.

Evans – seems to me that each unit that takes this approach needs guidelines on evaluating each student to the next. Seems it could be very random. Should this go into the recommendation.

Klein – because the portfolios will be so different between units, it’s hard to establish a ratio.

Evans – one unit needs some guideline and policy. Each unit needs their own.

Klein – that would be up to the units to determine should they decide that they want to consider it.

Sterns – point out that this has been an ongoing issue for over 40 years, have been accepting portfolios from other institutions for many years. Have been very conservative through the years on this issue, not as supportive as we should be.

Graor – what programs would use this?

Klein – some were media campaigns, nursing for those who had practiced in the military. Of course the arts. Don’t see it so much for History but would be relevant for some others.

Graor – how are credits handled when a student transfers.

Klein – would be up to the other university, more concerned about our university’s policy.

Minocchi – transcript credits are the same as bypass credits, awarded with name of course and credits awards in transcript.

Poll – Approve 27 Do Not Approve 1 Abstain 4 **Motion passes.**

Klein – thank you to the committee and especially to Joe Minocchi.

#### *Accessibility*

Bible – report sent out, bring background to Accessibility report, been on comm for 5 years and became co-chair this year. Put together new initiatives and asking faculty to put accessibility statement in their syllabi. Gives contact for students.

Recommendation to encourage faculty to include Accessibility statement on syllabus

Randby – motion adjust syllabus statement to make it gender neutral “feels **a need** for an accommodation” and “determined, **that student’s** instructors”

Motion to approve changes to motion – approved.

Klein – we had a link on the syllabus linking to all the statements that students need to know, could this just be part of that?

Bible – idea was to have it more easily accessible for students, without a link.

**Amended motion – approved by unanimous consent.**

Recommendation to develop accessibility ally training program

**Motion to approve by unanimous consent.**

#### *CCTC*

Randby – Qualtrics issue has risen again, hope that Qualtrics contract can be renewed without going out to bid. Have not heard back from CIO on this issue yet.

Workday Steering committee – report read by Sen Randby.

Budd – thank you for your service on the committee.

#### *Faculty Research*

Written.

*PTFC*

Written.

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*Univ Libraries*

Written.

*Ad hoc Investment Criteria Committee*

Smith – MOU agreed upon with administration and faculty to have faculty involved in process of academic investment. Committee formed to decide criteria for investment. Quantitative criteria will be from over time, allow dept to advocate for themselves.

Debate on Motion

Luettmmer-Strathmann – interacting with program review right? Review is formative, but input comes from dept, how does this interact?

Smith – Investment comm is going to meet every year and review metrics and get input on investment and where to be made. Will happen independently of Program Review.

LS – program review involves a lot of thought by dept, feeling that will be useless if decision is made by the investment comm?

Smith – important process to make sure we are delivering quality education.

LS – program review dept has a lot of input, none of that seems to be case for investment comm. It feels like it's by the numbers.

Smith – program review happens every 7 years, academic investment has to be done yearly. Results of program review will be used as input.

LS – yearly cycle prevents long-term strategic planning, might not get faculty in year 2-3 after getting one first year.

Smith – criteria will be looked at yearly but with a 3-5 year history and planning. Don't think report discusses that.

LS – a lot of things mentioned in the list. Boils down to a bunch of numbers that we'll get from Inst Research and not decided on input from department.

Smith – AIC will have a big task to make wise decisions.

Budd – program review comm will make more holistic recommendations; sometimes recommend hires but also make recommendations on curriculum. Not much overlap

Evans – whole page full of questions, guess biggest concern is that we have not had a lot of time to get this in front of faculty for discussion. Pretty important thing moving forward and “redistribution” of resources. More time needed to discuss this. Inclined to move to postpone the decision.

Smith – think concern was anticipated. Limited resources we have. But this is a huge step forward to get a chance to be part of the process. Goal of committee was to work through some of the definitional issues and what to count accurately and report on. No formula given. Not doing it by a formula.

Impractical to come up with a formula. These are practical criteria that we can get and compare among areas. Reports are available. This lays the foundation.

Budd – what we could do is have the IAC develop methodology for use of criteria, bring that to Senate for a vote then. Before they go on to make recommendations. We did try to get this information out earlier, report to Senate was made before now.

Smith – did not get much feedback.

Budd – but if we feel we need more time for this to go to faculty that is fine too.

Evans – other questions and reservations too.

Klein – guess what Sen LS articulated is along the lines of my concerns. Wondering how if we are putting in a request for a line we feel we need, do we also submit to the AIC? How does this work? Where is this division of labor in deciding who gets what?

Smith – great question, it's a process question that needs to be resolved next year in the process.

Because of how the university is organized there are different ways information gets to the provost.

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Budd – this was designed to give faculty the mechanism for requesting positions.

Klein – seems like a duplication of requesting.

Budd – don't see any harm in that. We inherited and no one is really sure who it's going to work yet.

Makki – question regarding timeline – good process that allows faculty to have input on investment, if we don't make a decision on this today, are we going to have input on the next cycle of investment. If we don't make a decision on this proposal then are we going to miss on the opportunity to inform that process.

Budd – don't see even if we vote this through that the AIC would complete work for the fall process, we are still using the old process. Want AIC to start work in Fall though.

Smith – would delay work starting.

Elbuluk – don't know what is the harm to getting this out to faculty to get input and move for giving some time for faculty to look at this and to understand criteria more.

Hartsock – before we make a motion, what exactly are we asking for. Investment comm was an ad hoc, tasked with coming up with criteria, motion to delay would make this come back to ad hoc??

Recommendation on implementation? What would delay do? If we agree to implementation of the AIC, could discuss those issues there.

Smith – voting on criteria, not implementation of the criteria. That is work of AIC. Step to facilitating AIC.

Evans – Sen Hartsock's statement is helpful but questions I have are to do with the criteria. Haven't discussed process yet. Clarify how questions will be answered and how AIC will deal with that. Do we want to get into the details of it?

Smith – should hash out the terminology in the criteria. There is a difference between a program and a department. Trick is that we're trying to combine financial and programmatic information. Think with the new software that is coming we can start to assign budget by program instead of department.

Evans – other questions.

Weinstein – not related to criteria, provides input for faculty to the Provost, to advocate for their program. Doesn't meet that what this committee says is binding. It's about input only, provides a source to get feedback to Provost.

Budd – Senate always recommends.

Evans – curious about use of the term research – other discussions about using terminology that is more inclusive of activities on campus, talk about the "creative activity"? What are senators from other units saying?

Budd – in Art we call it research.

Smith – means "6" accounts. Could change language.

Evans – only 6 account expenditures? Service accounts?

Smith – hard work will be to decide to get those numbers, 5 accounts, 3 accounts. External monies.

Evans – comment made about connecting this to the strategic plan and asking for qualitative criteria and how scholarly activity is connected to strategic plan. Do we have to show how the scholarly activity is related to the strategic plan?

Smith – what we had in mind. Chance for the program to argue how they are critical to the mission.

Evans – concept of benchmarking is important but at same time to do it correctly, accurately and fairly is going to be difficult. Delaware study – have not dealt with it but have been told that you have to be very careful how to interpret it. Comparing based on same kind of credit hours.

Budd – good idea to have AIC come back to Senate with recommendation on criteria.

Poll – To approve the recommendation for the criteria to be used in the evaluation of faculty proposals for academic investment by the ad hoc Academic Investment Committee

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Hartsock – bring recommendation to AIC after this vote?

Poll results – Approve 15 Do Not Approve 7 Abstain 5 **Motion passes.**

Motion by Evans –that AIC should report on their methodology for assessing criteria and how they will be used in process of making recommendations to Faculty Senate.

Rich – EC has a good idea on how to do this, could ask them to do this and report back to the Senate, could work out details on this.

Klein – that is fine.

Smith – think it takes care of it. Not going to be a rouge committee and will be reporting to FS. Motion not necessary.

Rich – the reason to have the committee direct report to Senate is that they first report on procedures and they are not required

Budd – does the language in chat now for the motion acceptable?

Rich – come up with better language. EC bring better language in Fall. Give direction to AIC.

Motion not made yet.

Budd – acceptable to Sen Evans?

Evans – yes.

Sterns – some of us went through an earlier period when ROI was taken literally. Discussion is important. It becomes critical. Interpretation of ROI is critical.

Klein – clarify that EC would direct AIC in conversation with the Provost office to clarify procedure for those who want to apply. So faculty will understand process.

Budd – thank you.

AAUP

None

Graduate Council

Graor – met 4/18 and heard that grad applications are up, especially in international students, emailing grad students about COVID relief funds, talked about portfolio based prior learning for grad students and will continue that in the fall. Grad Council felt we needed to develop guidelines so that there is consistency across departments and schools. Talked about ?? requirements for English proficiency. Review work of TAs and TOEFL requirements for TAs. Bring lower TOEFL scoring students in. Recognized support for grad students who need help in English proficiency, bring back UAdapt, more teachers of ESL and opening the ELI again.

GSG

Frey – last week as GSG president, honor and privilege to work to support grad population, thank you for making us feel at home. Introduce Pres Swanson to you.

Swanson – introduce myself as new GSG president, excited to complete transition in coming weeks, introduce to VP Mai Lor

Lor – first year grad student in Security Studies, excited to serve.

Frey – thank you to everyone.

Budd – congratulations for serving and welcome to new officers.

USG

No report.

UC reps

This semester revised bylaws and gotten the strategic planning process going and work continues.

New Business

None.

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Good of the Order

Dreisbach – wanted to ask for help from fellow senators and faculty, work in Exercise Science, do camps here on campus, looking for someone who might want to collaborate and do an activity with my campers. Have taken campers to Psych museum and Esports and are aged 15-19 and are incorporating STEM and Exercise Science. If you have ideas and would like to work with me I'd appreciate it. June 21-23 9-4:30 each day. [mdk24@uakron.edu](mailto:mdk24@uakron.edu)

Adjournment

Adjourned at 5:11 pm