

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting May 21, 2020 Minutes
Held via Zoom**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 10:00am by President Dan Sheffer.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

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

Congratulations to 1) Rita for a book written by her and her father that is based on his experience in World War II; the title is "Steve's Story: World War II through the Eyes of a Signal Corpsman". 2) Tom Vukovich received the John Jack De Morgan award.

III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the April 23, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

IV. Treasurer's Report. John Heminger's April 2020 treasurer's report was accepted as submitted. There was no income or expenses this month. University accounting still has hold on \$800 for Candle Coach; Tom V will check on status to release.

April 2020	AUAR Account		Petty Cash		Total Funds
Initial Balance	9,162.81		254.40		9,417.21
Income	0		0		0
Expenses	0		0		0
Final Balance	9,162.81		254.40		9,417.21
April 2019 Final Balance	7,504.56		292.04		7,796.60

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman sent a card to Hans and Kathy Zbinden congratulating them on new home.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Tom & Diane Vukovich reported:

- Online travel log on birding trip by Dan Sheffer (Wednesday, June 10).
- Information was sent regarding changing luncheon dates for Fall 2020 to 3rd Wednesday (1st Wednesday in October)

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B. Membership: Mel Vye reported as of May 2020, 37 new, 445 active, 22 inactive for 504 total. No additional contributions to scholarship fund. Membership renewal and request for new members will be in June 2020.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee no report.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported that the University is considering eliminating the retiree dependent benefits as part of their budget reductions. She does not have a lot of information at this point. 400+ retiree dependents will be effected. Linda and Dan will put questions together so the AUAR can craft a letter.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar reported:

Faculty Senate Meeting Report, May 2020

Chair Saliga called the meeting to order via WebEx. In her remark, she welcomed provost John Weincek to the UA family. She said the provost has asked the Executive Committee of the senate to comment on a spreadsheet the deans provided that was designed to shrink the number of colleges to five. She said the EC shared their suggestions and questions. Subsequently he shared the information with university community. She said provost actions are clear indication of believing in shared governance. She announced that senate would be having a special meeting to give its input on this redesign. The special meeting is scheduled for tomorrow May 22st.

President Miller in his remark thanked everyone and noted few members of BOTs that were present. He also admired faculty for adapting to this situation and their work with students. He said the community members are impressed with the University and the way students have been served. He mentioned that there is a huge financial challenge that the University faces. He said we are planning to open in the fall, although we are not sure how. He said at present we are not concerned with how we got into this situation; rather what we are concerned about is solutions moving forward. He said this is a more coordinated effort and we are excited about it. WE build on our strength and bring a greater interdisciplinary to our university. Organic innovations will come out of this and we think we'll be in a better position to meet the need of our students and provost is the leader in all of these. He said the sense of BOT is to have Division 1 athletics moving forward, although bringing the cost down. He said we are working with a lot of energy to work with potential donors, talking to foundations and engaging student leaders, talking to the community at large and the state legislators, regular discussions with city and county officials, developing protocols for opening the doors in fall, and recruiting our next class of Zips and their orientation. He finished his remark by saying we're asking the university to work smartly and fast and have commitment to do this. There were a lot of questions and answers mostly about reorganization and money saved.

Provost Weincek in his remark thanked everyone including search committee and president. He said these are difficult times but he left a university that is dealing with the same kind of difficulties. He said we need to make best decisions we can. There will be some small mistakes on the way, but will work with everyone engaged and involved. He said he asked president Miller to start a month early because he wanted to be here helping to chart the future of the UA. He said the University's future is his future. He said reflecting on the past on some pretty substantial changes brought and it hasn't gone well, we are entering into a time of hard decisions and decisions that people are going to be upset about. That being said we have a daunting task and if we look for ways to avoid the tough decisions we are damaging students who have chosen the UA and all that is in jeopardy if we don't make these choices. He said Deans have put their best effort into this, common needs, cultural overlaps, and come together to talk

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about administrative structures that are more alike than different. They tried to bring together people with similar priorities. He said he has asked FSEC and UCEC to look at it. He said it would be hard to compare what we will be with what we were. Ultimately we have to build a sustainable university and position ourselves for future success. Get away from discussion about cuts and what disappears and move towards a university that uses quarter billion dollars and makes good citizens. He concluded his remark by saying he is receptive to ideas and alternative approaches.

In committee reports APC brought to the floor rule changes regarding:

- a) Reassessment with change of major. If a student changes major, with some requirements he/she may request the omission of up to three courses from the cumulative GPA taken prior to change of major
- b) The timeline for dismissal for academic deficiency is extended to a maximum of four consecutive semester (excluding summer terms)
- c) The waiting periods for admission with adult status, for readmission following dismissal, and for transfer admission following dismissal from another institution is reduced from five to two.

The motions passed.

APC brought another motion to the floor regarding The Department of Curricular & Instructional Studies of the L. J. College of Education requesting a change of admission for their undergraduate program to:

- a) A GPA of 2.5 or better overall and 2.5 or better overall in prerequisite credit hours from specific courses identified by the Department.
- b) Demonstration of competency on a measure of writing expression evaluated by the faculty

The motion passed.

CRC brought a motion to the floor requesting approval of course and program proposals. The motion passed.

Faculty Research Committee, Part-time faculty Committee, Library Committee, and Graduate Council submitted written reports.

AAUP representative reported negotiation that was stopped because of COVID -19 still is inactive.

GSG representative reported that election of new officers is done. \$13000 is available to be spent for Grad student activities. She asked everyone to have Grad students in mind when making decisions.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan reported site is up to date.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported (via Dan): Normally his committee meets to select scholarship recipients this month. Current scholarship value \$119,815, \$250 in gifts and \$2,525 in awards account. Has received a list of scholarship applicants for his committee to review.

H. Newsletter. Editor Martha Vye reported she talked with Bob and Sharon regarding death notices. Asked those interviewing the new board members try to get that done by the August 15 newsletter deadline. Please send content ideas to Martha.

VII. Old Business.

VIII. New Business. AUAR meetings, discussion and planning. Board Pictures for newsletter. University reorganization and budget:. Dan asked thoughts on continuing Zoom vs meeting in person. Members suggested waiting to see how June Zoom

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luncheon goes. Board picture may be screen shot of the zoom participants. Dan will send out information from the email digests regarding the University's reorganization. The University administration has a very tight schedule; planning to take this to the University BOT at end of May meeting.

IX. Adjournment Ed Lasher moved to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Respectfully submitted:
Cathy Edwards, Recording Secretary

Next meeting will be June 18, 2020 at 10:00am via Zoom