

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, April 27, 2017  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

**I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on April 27th by President Diane Vukovich at 10:07am.**

**A. Others present included Bob Blankenship, Cathy Edwards, Ali Hajjafar, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Martha Vye, and Tom Vukovich.**

**B. Excused: Bob Gandee, John Heminger, Ed Lasher, Velma Pomrenke, Frank Thomas**

**C. Special Guest: Kim Cole, Director of Development, addressed the Board with information concerning the process and handling of University endowed scholarship accounts, as well as specifics concerning the AUAR endowed scholarship. The Board was pleased to learn that the “management fee” was being lowered from 1.5% to 1%. It was noted that the entire “management fee” is what is paid to Cambridge for managing the accounts. The Board also noted in the original wording of the AUAR document that awards could be taken from the principle if the current fund is less than the original gift value. Kim suggested that this point be reviewed by the Board and possibly changed.**

**II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the March 23, 2017 meeting were approved as written.**

**III. Treasure’s Report. Bob Blankenship reported that the March 2017 balance was \$7,114.31. That compares to the March balance of 2016 at \$4,804.96. The April luncheon had 40 reserved seats (35 included lunch) however there were 9 of those reservations absent. Therefore Bob took in \$408 with charges for the event totally \$421.28. Diane will contact those who were absent.**

**IV. Corresponding Secretary: Martha Vye reported that she had sent sympathy notes to Arlene Nettling on the death of her husband and Dorothy Ashimasi on her husband’s death as well.**

**V. Commitee Reports.**

**A. Programs. Dan Sheffer provided the overview of the April luncheon. The presentation was excellent and there was good audience participation as well.**

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**Special Events:** Diane Vukovich reported that the April Road Trip had to be cancelled due to the fact that there were only 18 paid reservations received.

Tom Vukovich noted that the Lobster and Suds event is on target for May 19<sup>th</sup>. Notices have gone out. Cost has increased \$1 for the lobsters but we should be able to break even with a reduction in the price of the chicken and the lasagna. Diane is searching other sources rather than Aramark.

Tom also provided a rundown of the fall luncheon speakers to date:

**September 13, 2017---Return to Pitcairn Island---Mel Vye**

**October 11, 2017---The Life of Winston Churchill: The Man Who Saved Democracy for the World---Bill Truax**

**November 8, 2017---Akron's Gangland War---Mark Price**

**B. Membership.** Diane reported that membership has stayed the same over the last month. She reported the AUAR brochure has been updated and she also included the Lobster and Suds information in the new retirees' AUAR information packet. Neal Raber agreed to do the official welcome to the retirees at the Founder's Day luncheon.

**C. Political Action.** No report.

**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported that the STRS Board voted at their April meeting to suspend the cost of living adjustment starting July 1, 2017. This suspension will be reviewed in 5 years.

Linda also explained the problems occurring over the last 3 months since Anthem notified Medicare (in error) that Retiree Dependents were active employees of the University. As a result, these Retiree Dependents were considered as having secondary coverage under Medicare and their claims were being rejected. Anthem has sent out a letter dated April 10<sup>th</sup> listing steps to correct previously submitted bills. Retirees **MUST** follow the steps in the letter to correct any bills that were rejected previously (prior to April 10<sup>th</sup>). Bills submitted after April 10<sup>th</sup> should be processed correctly.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Ali Hajjafar read the following report:

The Chair in his remarks announced that the chair of BOT could not attend the meeting. However, five other trustee members were present at the meeting. He mentioned that on April 10, the Board has scheduled their second informational session with four representatives of Faculty Senate Executive Committee and four representatives of the University Council Steering Committee. The first such meeting was held on Feb 6, 2017 and addressed the subject of intercollegiate athletics. The Executive Committee of the Senate has suggested that the second meeting focus primarily on what the trustees see as the future of the University once we get beyond the immediate fiscal crisis. More precisely they expected the discussion to include consideration of the future of State higher education funding and the role of research and graduate education at this university.

He reported that the administration concluded that an employee buy-out would not save the University enough money to warrant the expenditure. He concluded his remarks by reporting that on March 21st

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several members of Ohio Faculty Council testified before the subcommittee of Higher Education of the Finance Committee of the Ohio house. If anyone is interested in their testimony, they can call him to request a copy.

The Executive Committee reported that they met twice since the last senate meeting. Among other things, they discussed the implementation of the new model for GA funding, how colleges are budgeted funds for summer teaching, fall enrollment numbers, the reception and early feedback from students about the Akron Guarantee Scholarship, individualized retirement incentives, and positions that Faculty Senate has to fill in University Council.

President Wilson, in his remarks, reported that the new Chief Diversity Officer has started work on campus and her number one priority is going to be retention and engaging students in a whole host of diversity events. He again informed everybody of the Black Male Summit and Black Male Symposium that was going to happen the day after the senate meeting. He updated the admission numbers and mentioned that until the deadline of May 1st nothing is final. He said he was encouraged by what he saw. He spoke of the Akron Guaranteed Scholarship and its promises. The State budget was another subject that he talked about. The Governor appears to have shifted away from the textbook issue. However, the Universities and the State House are asked to work to bring the cost of textbooks down. Another part of the Governor's proposal was that tuition and fees ought to be capped. One of the things that is being pushed right now is the Ohio Plan. The plan allows a university to raise tuition and fees with the approval of the Department of Higher Education. This is something that Miami and Ohio University have already adopted and we have started to look into it. He talked about the Governor's State of the State address and his remarks about four year colleges. He talked about a couple of issues that are before legislature. One was the recognition of Western Governors University and the possibility of Ohio community colleges to add a third year of WGU to their programs. He continued to talk about the challenges that the University will have. He compared the affordability of the UA with Ohio State University and said UA is more affordable. He continued to talk about hiring three staff members for international student recruiting. Also, he said that he has decided to forgo the hiring of a vice president over international programming. He talked about hiring an Executive Director of Global Engagement. He talked about the creation of an International Center in the most affordable manner possible. He talked about working on evening, weekend, and flexible programming that is responsive to what the Governor's call is. He talked about fundraising; the number and amount of donations from alumni and supporters are up. He concluded his remarks by talking about the future planning that should be at the top of the list. He asked for help from Faculty and University Council. There were a lot of questions regarding Ernst & Young contracts, the Childcare Center, and transition after retirement.

President Wilson did not leave any topics for the Provost to comment on, except TARP (Transition After Retirement Program) and MAC (Mid-American Conference). TARP is open to all faculty and those of faculty rank (Administrators, Chairs, Associate Deans, etc.). There will be a two page guideline and a form to fill out for an agreement between the university and the faculty who wishes to retire and stay involved with the University by some means suggested by the faculty him/herself. Examples of the activities in the agreement may include: Do they want to continue teaching a couple of courses? Do they want to continue working in their research lab or in their studio? Do they wish to keep their office? Do they wish to keep their laptop? Do they want to come back and do some service activities, serve on committees where appropriate, mentor students, mentor junior faculty? Or all of the above. He said anything that people may want to do to continue to be involved with the University would be considered. We want to encourage that. And in many, or some of those cases, we will provide compensation for that. If one is going to teach a class, he/she is going to get paid to teach the class. He added that they have worked very closely with Akron AAUP representation on this so this is a joint program. On MAC, the Provost said, there will be another announcement coming out. There will be a memorandum coming

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through the Deans. He said the Provosts have gotten together to try to come up with a plan where we can get faculty that are interested in more academic leadership roles to have some kind of professional development. The MAC is going to pay for this program. It's called Mid-American Conference Academic Leadership Development Program. There were a few questions for Provost regarding TARP.

In the remainder of the meeting, Linda Saliga was elected as the Senate representative to University Council.

In committee reports:

CRC presented course proposals and were approved.

APC brought three items to the floor as follow: 1st item allowed students to repeat a course more than twice with permission of the appropriate dean; 2nd item allowed the School of Family and Consumer Science to split into three new, separate departments. The new departments are: Child and Family Development, Fashion Merchandizing, and Interior Design. Because these new departments have a small number of faculty, each will share a chair or a coordinator with other units in the college of Arts and Sciences; and the 3rd item was the duplicate program report that was generated by the Provost's Office. All APC items were approved.

CCTC presented an informational report regarding laptop replacement.

A Graduate Council representative talked about a resolution that will be brought to the senate floor next month.

In the new business, a resolution of support for the project to honor students and colleagues was presented. It resolved that the Faculty Senate of The University of Akron endorse the efforts of the students who are this year planning the Husein-Unternaher Service Event in 2017 to remember and honor students, faculty, staff and others lost from our family, and commend the student organizers for their efforts on this second annual event.

This concludes my report.

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**F. University & Community Service/Website.** Dan Sheffer reported that he will have the web page updated with all the new information by the weekend.

**G. Scholarship.** Carl Lieberman will work with Mary Schadle during the month of May to identify candidates for our AUAR scholarship for next year. As the Scholarship Committee works on the scholarship award, they will also discuss the wording in the University document.

**H. Newsletter.** Pam Rupert is anticipating a late August publication of our newsletter and would like to have all information in by the middle of August or sooner. She is still looking for suggestions for our retiree interview article.

**VI. Unfinished Business.**

**A. Nominations and elections.** Cathy Edwards moved that the slate of officer nominations on the Official Notice of Nominations be elected. No other nominations had been put forward. The motion passed unanimously.

**B.** Pam Rupert moved to appoint Cathy Edwards to fill the unexpired term of Vice President since it is now empty due to the election of Dan Sheffer to President Elect. Neal Raber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**C.** The Board now has 2 unexpired Member at Large positions open due to the resignation of Stu Terrass and the election of Cathy Edwards to Vice President. Contact Diane with nomination suggestions.

**VII. New Business.** Carl Lieberman brought up for discussion the closing of the Center for Child Development. He felt this announcement was poorly timed in such close proximity to the announcement of a new museum being established on campus. The Board suggested that our Faculty Senate representatives raise the question at the next meeting. Perhaps this would open up an opportunity to rebuild the Center with a new dean coming on board.

Neal Raber remarked about the new signage put up by Stark State prior to any construction being started.

**VIII. Adjournment at 12:00 noon.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary

**Next Executive Board Meeting:  
May 25, 2017  
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