

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, March 23, 2017
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on March 23rd by President-Elect Neal Raber at 10:00 AM.

A. Others present included Bob Blankenship, Bob Gandee, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Velma Pomrenke, Neal Raber, Linda Sugarman, and Martha Vye.

B. Excused: Cathy Edwards, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Frank Thomas, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich.

II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the February 23, 2017 meeting were approved as corrected.

III. Treasure's Report. Bob Blankenship reported a February balance of \$7,131.89. The February balance in 2016 was \$4,878.42. The proceeds from the March luncheon totaled \$282.50 including the 50/50 raffle.

IV. Corresponding Secretary: Martha Vye reported that she has not sent any correspondence out this month and asked for members to notify her if they knew of anything for her to handle.

V. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. Neal Raber reporting for Tom Vukovich stated the Tom is currently working on the Fall 2017 luncheon topics. So far Tom has scheduled Mel Vye to speak on September 17th about his recent trip to Pitcairn Island, Bill Truax to speak on Winston Churchill on October 11th, Mark Price to speak on November 8th (topic TBA), and our holiday party on December 13th. Tom is looking for entertainment suggestions.

Special Events: Neal noted that the Road Trip filers are out and reminded everyone that Lobster and Suds is scheduled for May 19th.

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B. Membership. In Frank's absence, Neal reported that our current active membership is 333. Our scholarship income for this year has amounted to \$5,055 compared to last year's total of \$3,815.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee shared a handout with the board and noted several important discussions from the last OCHER meeting. He noted that some key changes for the STRS funding system were reported including a reduction on the expected investment return and changes to the mortality tables. Discussion is still underway concerning the continuation of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) with no apparent decision yet. He also relayed some points brought up during an interesting discussion with representatives from AAUP which included concern voiced over tax reductions which lead to increased tuition for students, a large percentage of sport related expenses needing to be subsidized, and the use of adjuncts.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported that there have been problems for Retiree Dependents over 65 since Anthem took over involving rejected claims. There has been confusion over whether Medicare or Anthem is primary. Benefits has reassured Linda that if the claim goes to Anthem they will resubmit it correctly.

Based on the March 17th STRS update, Linda is expecting that COLA will either be reduced or eliminated. This will greatly impact the newly and fairly recent retirees and those not yet retired. The impact will be much less on those who have been retired for a number of years.

E. Faculty Senate. Neal read the following report submitted by Ali Hajjafar:

Chair Rich started his remarks by announcing that President Wilson and the Chair of BOT were unable to attend the meeting. He reported on the possibility that the University of Mumbai might establish what sounds like a branch here at the University of Akron.

The Executive Committee (EC) reported that they have met twice since last meeting. Also they met with the President and Provost. In their meeting, they discussed the HLC visit, the forthcoming changes in graduate assistantship funding, the status of dean searches, progress on the development of a buyout, the current RTP process, the textbook affordability proposal in the governor's budget, and the projected rollout of the new Akron Guaranteed scholarship.

On Feb 23, 2017, the EC met and discussed the curriculum proposal system and the status of the EX officio member of the accessibility committee. Also they discussed the new General Education and possible solution to perceived problems with the initial list of offerings. Based on the discussions the EC brought a resolution to the floor. It resolved that the procedure for expedited approval of existing courses for general education

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learning outcome credit shall be reestablished as previously provided in the General Education Implementation Plan, except that proposals for approval of existing courses shall be submitted by August 31, 2017 to the General Education Advisory Committee (or GEAC), which shall recommend proposals for approval by the Faculty Senate. The resolution received the approval vote.

The Provost in his remarks reported that President Wilson is in Washington DC. During his trip he has met with seven congressional delegates, the Department of Defense on behalf of NCERCAMP, the Corrosion Center and many other entities.

He mentioned that Akron Guaranteed Scholarship program went out. We have only 120 students opt in so far. So the students who currently had an offer of a normal scholarship now have an option to opt into the new. This had generated a lot of positive feedback. It was reported in US News and World Report. He said President Wilson has committed a taskforce to look at a revised scholarship model.

He reported that undergraduate admissions for next fall are still running above last year. Also seat deposits are much above last year at this time. He said President Wilson is to testify before the Ohio's House regarding the textbook issue. If this issue is not resolved, the University's budget will be affected by 14 million dollars.

He said Willis Towers Watson is doing the analysis to see if a buyout makes sense for the University. Furthermore he reported on the progress on assistantships, HLC whose report comes out in four weeks, Mumbai University, and duplicate programs. There were a lot of questions mostly about buyout, graduate assistantships, Mumbai University, scholarships, definition of full-time doctoral students, and retire rehire buyout. Dean Midha made some comments regarding Mumbai University and full-time graduate students. Liz Erickson made comments about the retire rehire buyout.

In Committee Reports, CCTC reported that provost Ramsier was present in their meeting to discuss the laptop replacement.

Athletic Committee presented in writing an indepth explanation of the Department of Athletics' budget, the financial challenges that the department faces and the cost of potentially moving from FSB/Division 1 level.

Graduate Council Committee asked for some additional amendment to the previously approved motions regarding graduate assistantship that received the approval vote.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Neal reported that Dan Sheffer has everything up-to-date on the website.

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G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported that he should have a report on the scholarship's assets next month. He is currently expecting that we will be able to provide 2 scholarships at \$2,000 each. Next month at the Board meeting Kim Cole, Director of Development, will speak regarding our endowed scholarship administration and fees.

H. Newsletter. Neal reminded everyone to have items for the next newsletter in to Pam Rupert by August.

VI. Unfinished Business. Cathy Edwards reported that all the forms have gone out. Once this election is concluded we expect to have two remaining Members at Large positions to fill. Diane is requesting suggestions of AUAR members who might be interested in serving on the Board. Suggestions so far include Betty Seeley, Claire Purdy, and Mary Dingle.

VII. New Business. Neal reported on the "Protect Ohio Pensions" group that recently formed. He has joined the group and will update the Board on issues and activities.

Concerning "no shows" at luncheons, Neal has suggested that all luncheon fliers contain the following statement right underneath the line that says "If you wish to purchase a beverage only, including sodas, the cost is \$2.00":

In RED: Aramark charges AUAR for every buffet reservation and for every soda only reservation; so if you are not able to attend, you are responsible for payment. If absent after making a reservation, please send to Treasurer Bob Blankenship your check payable to AUAR.

The suggestion was moved and seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Ed Lasher brought up some new business for next month's meeting concerning the definition of "Associate Member." He would like to suggest broadening the definition. Discussion will be scheduled for the April meeting.

VIII. Adjournment at 11:13 AM.

Respectfully submitted:
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary

Next Executive Board Meeting:
April 27, 2017.
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium