

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, September 28, 2017
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on September 28th by President Neal Raber at 10:00am.

A. Others present included Bob Blankenship, JoAnn Collier, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas, Diane Vukovich and Tom Vukovich.

B. Excused: Ali Hajjafar, Dan Sheffer, Martha Vye, Mel Vye,

II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the August 24th, 2017 meeting were approved as mailed. Rita Klein was reminded to send out the minutes from the General Meeting on September 13th as soon as they are ready for review. She was also directed to bring printed copies to the next General Meeting in the spring for review as well.

III. Treasure's Report. Bob Blankenship reported that the August balance stands at \$9,840.50 which compares to the balance one year ago of \$8633.51.

Bob reported that the luncheon in August was well attended; however, there were more attendees than reservations which posed some last minute logistic problems for food service as well as check in. We had received 43 reservations as of the previous Friday but ended up being charged for 51 lunches (\$705.13). We had taken in \$736.00 at the door which included \$96 from the 50/50 raffle ticket proceeds. Luckily, Ed Lasher won the drawing and donated it back into the treasury. Therefore we were able to cover not only the lunches but also our \$75 room charge!

IV. Corresponding Secretary: Neal reported that Martha Vye sent a condolence card to the family of Jack Hibbs. She also forwarded to Neal a request from a University in India looking for retired faculty willing to teach there.

V. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. Diane Vukovich reported that the luncheon fliers have been revised to indicate that NO food orders will be taken after 5:00pm on the Friday before the luncheons. Tom Vukovich will speak with Aramark concerning several service problems which surfaced at the last luncheon. Diane also mentioned that Neal will need a sub for the 50/50 raffle at the October luncheon.

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Tom Vukovich reported that he is looking for student musicians to perform at our December luncheon.

Special Events: Tom and Diane are looking at the Rotary Club as a possible site for the Lobster and Suds event in May. Diane has spoken to the Metro Parks and learned that they do not have warming ovens available in the shelter houses which eliminates those sites for Lobster and Suds. Warming ovens are needed for the chicken and vegetarian lasagna entrees for those not eating lobster.

Tom and Diane requested volunteers for the Soup and Chili Supper. Several board members stepped forward.

B. Membership. Frank Thomas reported that we have 58 new members, 338 active members, and 67 inactive members (have not paid dues). Frank brought in copies of an additional reminder letter and address labels for the inactive members. After the meeting, the Board members wrote personal notes to those on the inactive list whom they knew personally asking them to pay their dues.

Frank also mentioned some recent deaths in our retirement community:
Linda Jandeka Rohrbough (his secretary)
John Hirshbuhl
Betty Shatrick
Jinny Allanson

C. Political Action. Tom and Diane Vukovich reported on the recent OCHER meeting which they attended for Bob Gandee. The reports from individual campuses in Ohio have now been divided into small groups with each group assigned a particular month to report. This has decreased the amount of time taken each month with campus reports.

The OCHER president, Nancy Wardwell, forwarded a position statement on the recently formed "POP5" organization. OCHER does not endorse "POP5" due to several reasons, the first of which is that "POP5" is redundant, duplicating activities of STRS, OPERS, ORTA and HPA and PERI. (See Appendix 2 for full OCHER position statement.)

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported that the University of Akron health benefits have covered 105 pre-65 retiree dependents and 346 post-65 retiree dependents as of September 2017.

The Benefits Administration Manager at this time is Michael Spayd, mas49@uakron.edu. Sarah Kelly is the head of Benefits.

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The University no longer has a print faculty/staff directory. The on-line directory is difficult to find and use making it hard to know who to contact when you have issues.

E. Faculty Senate. Bob Gandee presented Ali Hajjafar's Faculty Senate report. He pointed out in particular the numbers presented by the President in his remarks concerning the increase (11-12%) in freshman enrollment, the decrease (5%) in overall enrollment, near capacity in housing (99.8%), the \$12 million surplus from efforts last year, and the one-time payment he will make to full time employees who have not received a raise (\$750,000). Bob reminded us that the details for the Senate meeting are always available on-line. (See Ali's full report in Appendix 1).

F. University & Community Service/Website. Neal, reporting for Dan Sheffer, noted that all is up-to-date on our web page.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported that invitations to meet AUAR at one of our luncheons as our guest have been sent out to both our scholarship recipients. Jonathon Masters has accepted our invitation and will attend the October luncheon. Carl has not yet heard from Brook Kendra.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert has set the deadline for the spring newsletter for the end of December. She encouraged everyone to send her news! She reported how much easier it is to get the newsletter together with the layout help from Tony and having the folding and addressing done automatically. She received the usual accolades for the fall edition.

VI. Unfinished Business. None.

VII. New Business. Linda Sugarman suggested making Leona Farris an Honorary Member of AUAR. She posed the following motion:

On reaching the age of 100, AUAR bestows lifetime Honorary Membership to Leona Harris.

Bob Gandee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment at 11:12am.

Respectfully submitted:
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary

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**Next Executive Board Meeting:
October 26, 2017.
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Appendix 1

2017 September Senate Report

On September 7, 2017 Chair Rich called the meeting to order. He introduced newly elected and reelected senators. He mentioned that in this meeting the senate has to approve the two actions taken by the executive committee during the summer. He reported that president Wilson acted upon all legislations passed by the Senate last year, favorably. He said this year the University would conduct the academic program review. An executive/advisory committee with members from Office of Academic Affair, the Faculty Senate, AAUP, and Graduate School along with Chief Diversity Officer and Learning Assessment Director will conduct the review. Academic reviews are required for accreditation. It can also be used for investment and disinvestment purposes. It is important that this review to be faculty driven. He quoted Clemenceau who said, "War is too important to be left to the generals" and therefore academic review is too important to be left to the administrators.

Secretary of the Executive Committee reported that during the summer they met 10 times including two meetings with president and provost. Subjects discussed in those meetings included: Curriculum proposals (and he asked the approval of the senate as a motion), parking and parking fees, the work of the flexible learning outcomes committee, the status of the budget process the TARP program, best practices for part-time faculty, support of Buchtelite, Possibility of University becoming a Fraunhofer institute, the state of the old St. Paul's church on Market street, child care on campus, work load negotiations of non-tenured faculty, University budget, State funding higher education, summer teaching budget, graduate college and graduate enrollment, practical nurse training program of Akron Public Schools, proposal to move to a four day work week at the University, The new learning management system, general education requirements for 2-year programs (and asked for senate ratification as a motion), academic program review, hiring of new faculty, fall enrolment, James A. Rhodes Arena improvement, International programs, and Sesquicentennial.

President in his remarks welcomed everybody back to a new school year. He said our new freshmen enrollment is up about 11-12 percent, but our overall enrollment is down about 5%. He explained the overall enrollment is down because of a large graduating class. He claimed a big improvement in compare to what that was projected. He reported that University housing is 99.8% full in compare to 85% last year. As far as budget is concerned, things were challenging last year. Our student population has decreased from 29,699 in 2012 to almost 22,000 at present time. We had a real \$30 million deficit, but we got \$42 million shift in the numbers (\$12 million surplus). He explained in detail how this progress could be done. He said he is looking to find \$750,000 for a one-time payment to those full time employees who have not received a raise. He mentioned that the State Budget came down during the summer. He talked about raising tuition for the incoming freshmen only. He explained how some

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universities in the State have done it and others (including us) are studying to do that. He said the University is looking to decrease tuition for non-resident out of State undergraduate students. This is authorized by the BOT to be studied; 96% of our students are in State. There were a lot of questions for the president and many comments.

Provost in his remarks reported that the University has received a letter from HLC. The result is good for the University. We have three interim reports to give by Dec. 2018. One on shared governance, one on program review, and one on finances including differed maintenance and facilities. He said critical faculty hiring is in the agenda of the council of the Deans. We have very limited sources for hiring. There is some savings from TARP and some from retirement of faculties. There were a few questions for the provost.

Senate elections were performed including reelection of Bill Rich as the chair of the Senate for two more years.

At the end there were some committee reports.

This completes my report.

Ali Hajjafar

Appendix 2

Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees

Position on POP5

OCHER does not endorse POP5 for a variety of reasons. Among them are:

1. POP5 is redundant. The systems that serve higher education employees in Ohio are primarily STRS and OPERS. The “watchdog” organizations are ORTA and HPA watching STRS and PERI has long and well watched OPERS. All have successfully represented members for many years.
2. It appears that POP5 was conceived and developed by a single individual, a former disgruntled employee of PERI.
3. While they claim to have applied for 501c3 tax status, it has not been granted – so the “dues” are NOT tax deductible.
4. The terms of the POP5 Board are “continual” (unless removed for cause) and there is no election process in the Constitution.
5. The Board is not complete. There is provision for Board Members representing all 5 Ohio pension systems, but only one (OPERS) is represented.

Revised 9/27/17