

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)**  
**Executive Board Meeting Friday, April 25, 2025**  
**Minutes**  
**Held in person and Zoom**

**Call to Order:** The Board meeting was called to order on April 25, 2025 by President Harvey Sterns at 10:06 am.

**Welcome and Announcements**

Members attending: Kathy DuBose, Ali Hajjafar, Bob Huff , Richard Milford, Dan Sheffer, Richard Steiner, Harvey Sterns, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich

Zoom: George Haritos, Doug Hausknecht, Rita Klein

Excused: Carl Leiberman, Tom Nichols, Linda Sugarman, Mary Verstraete, Martha Vye, Mel Vye

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes from March were presented for approval. Dan Sheffer noted that under Political Action there is a statement "The issue has **died in the water ....**" Dan state this should read "**The issue will most likely die in the water...**".

George Haritos motioned to approve; Ali Hajjafar seconded. The minutes were approved with the correction.

Many thanks and much appreciation for the excellent job Mary does with the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report :**

**March 2025**

UA Account income:	Membership dues	\$ 195.00
	Raffle proceeds	41.00
	Luncheon proceeds	350.00
	Total income	\$ 586.00

UA Account expenses:	Aramark	\$ 568.39
	Roller Coach #1	1129.95
	Roller Coach #2	389.83
	Total Expenses	\$2088.17

Petty Cash income : Transfer from Luncheon Proceeds \$ 175.00

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	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial Balance	\$13366.54	\$125.68	\$13492.22
Income	\$586.00	\$175.00	\$761.00
Expenses	\$2088.17	\$0.00	\$2088.17
Final Balance	\$11864.37	\$300.68	\$12165.05*
Final Balance			
March 2024	\$11129.45	\$152.48	\$11281.93*

\* These include dues payments for future years.

Tom Vukovich: We should receive a \$175 refund from Roller Coach because we downsized to a smaller bus for the roadtrip. We should also, (may) receive bill from Parking services.

Richard Milford moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Richard Steiner seconded. The motion passed.

**Corresponding Secretary:** (No Report)

**Committee Reports:**

**A. Programs:** Tom and Diane Vukovich reported that the April luncheon (both food and the program) went well. Dates for 2025-26 luncheons are set.

Many thanks to Tom and Diane Vuckovich for a good trip to Mercer County. 25 people signed up for the road trip. There was one cancellation so 24 people made the trip. Because we did not meet the goal of 35 people to sign up to cover the cost of the trip, an anonymous donor contributed \$400 so the trip could be a go. We also downsized to a smaller bus which resulted in \$175 refund from the bus company, Roller Coach. Also expecting a bill from parking services for the parking.

Lobster and Suds is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>. Flyer was distributed via email.

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**B. Membership:**

Dan Sheffer reported that we have 165 paid members, 55 lifetime members.

20 members paid 2025 dues

82 members still owe 2025 dues

35 members did not renew

A discussion was held on how to increase membership. Harvey Sterns believes in and encourages personal contact, outreach, invitations, and offers to bring potential members to events. Bob Huff-Reach out to new retirees and individuals who have been retired for a year or two. Perhaps explain UA benefits retirees retain. Tom Vukovich-as opportunities arise, implement the ideas/suggestions for member recruitment.

- C. Political Action:** Dan Sheffer gave further details about STRS being the main plaintiff in the class action lawsuit against Target and the primary reason is that the STRS BOD is fiduciarily responsible for funds.

Dan also discussed the STRS document/email which addressed COLA, impacts on base salary, service years, and benefits.

Dan discussed the Sustainable Benefit Plan (SBP)

Per Bob Huff, the STRS BOD have received ongoing training about how STRS works and their responsibilities as Board members, which seems to have helped “steady” the BOD.

- D. Benefits:** Harvey Sterns (via Linda Sugarman). Retirees will keep their 1870 email addresses. Dan Sheffer still encourages retirees to have an alternate, non-UA email address.
- E. Faculty Senate:** Doug Hausknecht (See attached report). Harvey Sterns noted that the planning process to scale down was fairly effective. Enrollment projections are good. President Nemer encourages outreach to students, etc. Ali Hajjafar encourages Faculty Senate meeting minutes continue to be sent to AUAR executive committee members prior to monthly meetings.
- F. University & Community Services/Website:** No Report
- G. Scholarship:** Rita Klein reported that she received from the Office of Development the names of 3 scholarship recipients. A female student, Junior majoring in Marketing, GPA 3.3; a male student, Junior majoring in Political Science, GPA 3.1; a male student, Senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering, GPA 3.2. These students meet the desired criteria (diverse

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group, different majors from prior year, GPAs within desired range). Each student will receive \$2500.

The executive committee accepted the motion from the Scholarship committee to approve the distribution of scholarship money to these 3 students.

**H. Newsletter:** No report. Thanks to Martha Vye for all her hard work and excellence in publishing the AUAR newsletter.

**Old Business:** George Haritos said that he has not received any response from the request for AUAR board members. The deadline for requests is May 19<sup>th</sup>. Ali Hajjafar asked how we should handle essential, but non-elected position/responsibility such as the Political Action representative.

Harvey Sterns reported on the Bicentennial Committee celebration of Age-Friendly Akron agenda for May 15th. Harvey asked Dan Sheffer send one more email reminder about the event.

**New Business:** This is Harvey Sterns' last meeting presiding as President of AUAR (officially the last meeting would have been the May meeting but Harvey will not be in attendance at that meeting). The executive committee thanked Harvey for his work and Harvey responded that he looks forward to still being a part of AUAR. The gavel was passed to incoming President Richard Steiner.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

**Respectfully Submitted: Kathy DuBose taking notes for Mary C. Verstraete,  
Recording Secretary**

**The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2025 at 10:00 am in the Infocision Board Room.**

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**NOTES FROM FACULTY SENATE 3 April 2025**

- **Chair remarks:**  
Resources will be made available to faculty and staff in response to the passage of Senate Bill 1.
- **President**
  - Candidates for Athletic Director will be visiting.
  - Media campaign to be launched by the firm 160/90
  - Four pronged growth strategy to include recruitment, retention, building on unique and meaningful programming and the overall student experience
- **Provost(s) – both were introduced**
  - Enrollment looks solid
  - Wiencek – thank you for working in shared governance
- **Committees**
  - APC: Passed proposal for merger of School of Music and School of Dance, Theater, and Arts Administration.
  - Motion passed to rename and restructure the Graduate School to the School of Graduate Studies.
- **Other**
- **USG and GSG reported activities.** Among those were that students are checking campus locations for accessibility and to remind the Senate of the upcoming Remembrance Day ceremony.

[https://uazips-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hauskne\\_uakron\\_edu/Documents/AUAR/2025 4 3 Senate notes.docx](https://uazips-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hauskne_uakron_edu/Documents/AUAR/2025%204%20Senate%20notes.docx)