

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting August,27, 2020 Minutes  
Held via Zoom**

**I. Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on August 27, 2020 at 10:00 am by President Dan Sheffer.

**II. Welcome & Announcements:**

Members attending via Zoom or phone: Jo Ann Collier, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Laura Moss Spitler, Tom Nichols, Neal Raber, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Diane Vukovich, and Tom Vukovich

Absent with notice: Cathy Edwards, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Tim Lillie, Richard Steiner, and Jaci Wilbanks

**III. Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the June 18, 2020 meeting were approved with the following corrections: Tim Lillie's term is 2020 to 2022 and the scholarship awarded to Emily Taylor was for the Spring 2020 term.

**IV. Treasurer's Report.** John Heminger reported for the months of June and July 2020. Bob Gandee moved that the report be approved subject to audit. The motion passed.

- **June 2020**

AUAR Account income: dues \$12.00

AUAR Account expenses: \$0.00

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: Diane Vukovich for Summit Metro Parks \$175.00

	AUAR Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	9018.78	254.40	9273.18
Income	12.00	0.00	12.00
Expenses	0.00	175.00	175.00
Final balance	9030.78	79.40	9110.18
June 2019			
Final balance	8948.50	232.04	9180.54

- **July 2020**

AUAR Account income: dues \$1524.00

AUAR Account expenses: \$0.00

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

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	AUAR Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	9030.78	79.40	9110.18
Income	1524.00	0.00	1524.00
Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Final balance	10554.78	79.40	10634.18
June 2019			
Final balance	10100.50	232.04	10332.54

**V. Corresponding Secretary.** Linda Sugarman reported that she sent out three think of you cards, two sympathy cards and one get well card during the last month.

**VI. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs:** Tom & Diane Vukovich reported that speakers scheduled for the September, October, and November Fall luncheon programs have agreed to give their presentations using the Zoom format. Titles and topics for the presentations are detailed in the Fall Newsletter which is available on the AUAR website and is being mailed to all members. Program dates are September 16, October 7, and November 18. The December program which involved a musical group has been cancelled. A decision on a replacement topic/presentation is under consideration.

**B. Membership:** Mel Vye reported on current members: there are 67 newly retired faculty, 201 active (paid), and 0 inactive status. It is presumed that the number of paid active faculty will increase with reminders to pay dues. The latest tally of scholarship contributions received since June was \$2,689.00. July and August numbers were not available.

**C. Political Action.** Bob Gandee had no report. He noted that Dan Sheffer will be Vice President of Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) for a two year term beginning this Fall. Dan will be conferring with Dr. Jerry Feezel of KSU, the new president of OCHER, about how to conduct OCHER meetings using the Zoom format.

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**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported:

I want to report that Dan Sheffer has sent out a letter to all members with some ideas on how retiree dependents can get new insurance. That letter will also be included in the next newsletter. Dan, Therese, and Linda wrote that article.

We members of the committee are also trying to find out how retiree dependents whose University Health Insurance is ending on December 31, 2020 are going about finding new health insurance.

We are interested in what is happening to the bargaining unit retiree dependents, but have been unable to find out anything.

I did see an article that indicated the University is denying tuition reimbursement to the children of RIFed Faculty, while still giving tuition reimbursement to the children of staff and contract professions who were also RIFed.

There is interesting information on the Akron AAUP website under "News" that some retirees may want to look at.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Ali Hajjafar reported:

Special Senate meetings were held July 23rd and August 6th.

At the request of several senators, Linda Saliga the Chair of the Faculty Senate called a special meeting on July 23rd to discuss a response to Reduction in Force (RIF). President Miller and Provost Weincek were present for answering questions. Some senators complained that the administration did not follow a uniform policy for choosing the employees in the RIF list. The President tried to encourage the faculty to ratify the temporary extension of the contract. It was mentioned that if the contract is not ratified the RIF list might change. A good portion of the meeting was spent to discuss a resolution presented by a senator regarding the BOT (Board of Trustees) and their performance. Eventually it was decided to refer the resolution to Executive Committee (EC) with a charge to submit a report to the body by July 30. In addition, a follow up meeting was scheduled for August 6th, to allow for discussion and any necessary action. Since there were several issues in the original resolution, EC decided to divide it into four separate resolutions. Previously President Miller had talked about establishing an Athletic Review Task Force in order to have a considered and thorough discussion of the complex issues surrounding Division1 athletics. The first resolution requested that the faculty members of the Faculty Senate's Athletic Committee should be members of the Task Force. The second resolution asked for former president Proenza respectfully to retire/resign or the University

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adds his name to the RIF list. The third resolution called upon Governor DeWine to develop a policy for the distribution of the BOT so that at least two of the voting members should be retired or active higher education faculty. The fourth resolution called upon Ohio Senate's Higher Education Committee to request the resignation of all current UA BOT members and the Governor of the State of Ohio replace them with persons having the requisite expertise and commitment to guide the UA back to its mission. At the end one senator brought a resolution to the floor regarding the termination of Developmental Programs (and placing all program's faculty on the RIF list) without following the procedures of shared governance. Discussions led to referring the resolution to either Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) or Academic Policies Committee (APC) for a thorough review.

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

**G. Scholarship.** Dan Sheffer reported on behalf of Carl Lieberman. According to the latest information available, the balance in the AUAR scholarship account totaled \$114,178.00. An unofficial amount of some \$260.00 in additions has been received. All three recent recipients have acknowledged receipt of their scholarships.

**H. Newsletter.** Editor Martha Vye reported that the Fall newsletter is complete. Tony Fawver informed her yesterday that the final proof is ready. She acknowledged Bob Gandee's respectful treatment of the people who have died this past year. He has indicated he would like someone else to assume the responsibility of collecting and forwarding that information. His process is to scan locally available obituaries, selecting those he thinks are related to the university. If they are members of AUAR they are included in the In Memoriam section of the newsletter. The next step in the production of the newsletter involves applying labels and mailing. A question was asked about the number of copies to print. Approximately 30 copies are distributed to speakers and various campus entities and an additional 20-25 copies have been distributed to OCHER representatives at meetings. This will need to be re-considered in light of online meetings. The question was raised whether paper mailed copies were necessary and even desirable. Martha replied that membership renewal forms clearly state that one of the benefits of membership is a paper copy of the newsletter twice a year.

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**VII. Old Business.** Dan Sheffer asked if there were any questions about the collation of the results of the recent survey of the membership. He was particularly concerned that we respond to questions addressing wants and needs for future programming. The response rate was 31%, considered a “respectable” rate. He asked board members to review the data and consider especially the suggestions for future programming. Martha Vye said that many of the topics suggested by respondents had been addressed in the newsletter which will be going out soon. Dan pointed to the University Digest email that details what is happening on campus frequently. Questions were raised about participating in consortium initiatives for lifelong learning.

**VIII. New Business.** There was no new business to discuss.

**IX. Adjournment** Bob Gandee moved to adjourn. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

**Respectfully submitted:  
JoAnn Collier, Recording Secretary**

**Next meeting will be at 10:00am September, 24, 2020 via Zoom**

- Meeting Schedule for 2020-21: August 27, 2020; September 24, 2020; October 22, 2020; December 3, 2020; January 28, 2021; February 25, 2021; March 25, 2021; April 22, 2021; May 21, 2021; June 24, 2021 (Photos of the 2021-2022 board will be taken at the June 24, 2021 meeting).