

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting Friday, May 22, 2025 Minutes
Held in person and Zoom

- I. **Call to Order:** The Board meeting was called to order on May 22, 2025 by President Harvey Sterns at 10:03 am.

II. **Welcome and Announcements**

Members attending: Doug Hausknecht, Bob Huff, Richard Milford, Dan Sheffer, Richard Steiner, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, Mary Verstraete, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, George Haritos

Zoom: Ali Hajjafar, Harvey Sterns, Kathy DuBose

Excused: Carl Leiberman, Tom Nichols, Linda Sugarman, Rita Klein

Harvey thanked the Board for a great two years as President and the Board thanked Harvey for his service to the group.

- III. **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes from April were presented for approval.

Tom Vukovich motioned to approve; George Haritos seconded. The minutes were approved without correction.

Mary Verstraete thanked Kathy DuBose for taking the minutes for the previous meeting.

IV. **Treasurer's Report :**

April 2025

UA Account income:	Membership dues	\$ 75.00
	Raffle proceeds	42.00
	Luncheon proceeds	452.00
	Roller Coach Credit	389.83
	Total income	\$ 958.83

UA Account expenses:	Aramark	\$ 554.36
	Roller Coach Dup. Exp	389.83
	Total Expenses	\$ 944.19

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial Balance	\$11864.37	\$300.68	\$12165.05
Income	\$958.83	\$0.00	\$958.83
Expenses	\$944.19	\$0.00	\$944.19

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Final Balance	\$11879.01	\$300.68	\$12179.69*
Final Balance			
April 2024	\$10710.11	\$152.48	\$10862.59*

* These include dues payments for future years.

Mary Verstraete moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Diane Vukovich seconded. The motion passed.

V. Corresponding Secretary: Mary Verstraete presented the report for Linda Sugarman.

Linda sent to the families of John Savery and Sue Larson. She sent a Get Well Card to Marcia Main.

VI. Committee Reports:

A. Programs: Tom and Diane Vukovich reported that Lobster & Suds went very well and thanked all those who attended. A special thanks to Cynthia Capers for the arrangements at her condo as the location. Thirty nine people attended (22 ordered lobster and 17 chicken). Tom got the lobsters from the "Lobster Man" this year instead of Euclid Fish or Klein Fish and they were very tasty.

B. Membership: Mel Vye passed out a summary of all the members since 2018 and noted that we have currently 165 paid members.

He then noted that approximately 35 do not renew each year. He identified 3 major problems we are facing with regards to membership:

- i. Lack of support from Development – wondering if we are being credited for membership dues and scholarship donations
- ii. The changes to e-mail including the 1870 e-mails
- iii. Identifying new retirees – this should come directly from HR

Discussion from the Board included: We are having problems with the newsletter and cannot get a current list. We need better support from Development and possibly should have Kim Cole come to a Board meeting to discuss the issues. We need to bring membership forms to all AUAR events.

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HR needs to hand out our brochure and discuss the benefits of the free year membership. The head of HR is Michelle Smith, Asst. VP HR (330-972-5146). Danielle Ester sends Dan Sheffer lists and he will find out who we should be working with. Last resort – reach out to the President.

C. Political Action: Dan Sheffer reported that the next Ocher meeting is next Tuesday

Jerry Newsome's report included two enhancements for retirees: a one-time COLA payment in the works and active teachers benefits calculation will go back to 30 years, not 35.

There are two candidate for the Executive Director position. The Governor and AG have asked STRS to hold off on appointing a director, not sure why.

The state commission overseeing pension systems is pushing for a single board to handle all systems. All systems are opposed to this.

Several Board members are promoting a specific company to handle all the investments, trying to get control of the STRS assets.

D. Benefits: Linda Sugarman had no report.

E. Faculty Senate: Doug Hausknecht presented the attached report.

F. University & Community Services/Website: No Report

G. Scholarship: Rita Klein had no report. Martha Vye requested the three names of our scholarship recipients for the next newsletter.

H. Newsletter: No report. The deadline for the newsletter is August 15th.

VII. Old Business: The By-Laws Committee has not yet met.

The Age-Friendly Akron and Summit County Bicentennial event was well attended and provided great information to over 70 attendees.

VIII. New Business: The nominating committee submitted their 2025 Report to the Board for Approval. Tom Vukovich motioned to approve the report and Mary Verstraete seconded. The motion passed and without any additional nominees from outside, the slate was approved.

President-elect	TBD
Vice President	Richard Milford
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Sugarman

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Members at Large of the Executive Board

Kathy DuBose, Tom Nichols, one TBD

Faculty Senate Representatives

Harvey Sterns and Douglas Hausknecht

Dan Sheffer asked that the Nominating Committee Chair, George Haritos, send out the Senate Representatives to the membership to vote on as the Faculty Senate requires a counted vote from the respondees.

IX. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

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

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

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NOTES FROM FACULTY SENATE 1 May 2025

- **Chair remarks:**
 - Chair Budd expects a report from the Part-time Faculty Work group in Fall 2025
 - Along with other cuts, athletics should also be face similar cuts
 - The university is adapting its response to Senate Bill 1 which has been signed
- **Executive Committee** discussions have included
 - Senate Bill 1
 - Need to support International students
 - Need to create at least one 90 credit degree
 - Athletic funding
- **Elections for coming year**
 - Chair: Angela Hartsock (Biology)
 - Vice chair: Joel Duff (Biology)
- **President (not attending)**
- **Provost**
 - Registrations a bit ahead of prior year
 - Cautiously optimistic for Fall enrollment prior to Commit Day
 - There are many tasks to complete to adapt to Senate Bill 1. The impact is being analyzed and workshops will be created.
- **Committees**
 - Computing and Communication – A bid process for LMS (Learning Management System) will begin in the fall due to the expiration of Brightspace/D2L contract. Change is not required but formal bidding is required.
 - Curriculum Review Committee – Four degree programs were approved to meet the requirement for something to be available within 90 credits. (BAS Bachelor of Applied Science; Future programs could be Bachelor of Applied Arts)
General Studies, BAS
Health Care Leadership and Management, BAS
Health Services, BAS
Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, BAS
The proposal for a First Year Seminar was returned to committee yet again.
- **Other**

I was asked also about including a copy of the meeting transcript and/or the official minutes. In general, I do not have the ability to download the raw transcript, and the May (nor April) minutes are not yet published. (There is no online transcript for the May meeting.) These will be available with others at <https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/universityofakronfacultysenate/>.