

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting December 2, 2021 Minutes
Held in-person and Zoom audio

I. Call to order: The Board meeting was called to order on December 2, 2021 at 10:02 am by President Rita Klein.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending: Jo Ann Collier, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Carl Lieberman (audio), Tom Nichols, Dan Sheffer, Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman, Mary Verstraete, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, and Richard Steiner

Excused: Cathy Edwards, Tim Lillie, Laura Moss-Spitler, Diane Vukovich, and Tom Vukovich

III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 28, 2021 board meeting were approved as distributed.

IV. Treasurer's Report: John Heminger reported:

October 2021

UA Account income: dues \$96.00., luncheon proceeds \$391.00

UA Account expenses: luncheon \$348.24

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$9,737.13	\$279.40	\$10,016.53
Income	\$487.00	\$0.00	\$487.00
Expenses	\$348.24	\$0.00	\$348.24
Final balance	\$9,875.89	\$279.40	\$10,155.29
October 2020			
Final balance	\$10,830.78	\$79.40	\$10,910.18

The treasurer's report was approved subject to audit. There was some discussion about no-shows and luncheon reservations which were not cancelled and subsequently paid for. Those numbers are not available today.

V. Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sugarman reported she sent condolence cards to the families of Lici Calderone and Daryl Reneker. Get well cards were sent to Jay Hershey and Robert Ritchie. She was informed today of Rae Leonard and her husband experiencing health problems and will send a thinking of you card.

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VI. Committee Reports:

A. Programs: Diane and Tom Vukovich submitted a written report read by Rita as they are out of town on a trip to Dollywood.

1. November Luncheon – We thank Dan Sheffer and Mel Vye for providing the technical assistance in bringing Dr. Miller's presentation to the November luncheon. President Miller was self-quarantined due to exposure to COVID. Once some technical issues were resolved, an in-person audience of 46 and about 12 connecting via Zoom, intently listened as Dr. Miller reviewed the difficulties the Institution had faced during the past academic year. He also listed 6 goals for the University that he expects to work on in the coming months. In the Q&A at the end of his presentation Dr. Cynthia Capers asked that the retirees be included as part of the identified stakeholders who receive updates on progress toward meeting these goals as we are among groups supporting students and faculty in our activities.

2. December 14 luncheon: The luncheon will feature Mel Vye and the “Tuba Fours”. The group will play a selection of holiday music. We need a motion to cover the cost of the lunches for the 7 members of the group. We have covered the cost of lunches for holiday entertainers in the past. Motion made by Dick Steiner to cover the cost of 7 buffet lunches for the entertainers at the December 15 luncheon. Seconded by John Heminger. Motion approved without dissent.

3. February 16 – Representatives from the Summit County Prosecutors office presenting how to avoid “senior scams”

4. March 16 – speaker TBD

We reviewed the first 10 year video montage of the Association's history and feel it would be more appropriate closer to the group's 25th anniversary in 2023. Planning for this should begin soon.

5. April 20 – speaker is Dr. Gerald Newsom of OCHER and the Ohio State University Retirees Association. He will address “Retiree Observations of STRS”.

The Soup and Chili Supper event was held November 5, 2021 with 40 members and guests in attendance. We incurred \$20 unreimbursed expense. The facility has already been reserved for November 2022.

B. Membership: Mel Vye reported member totals as: 114 new members (free), 235 renewals (paid), for a total of 349 active members. Mel asked members in attendance to look at returned snail mail membership renewal forms to see if present addresses are known.

C. Political Action: Bob Gandee reported that the recent meetings of OCHER and STRS boards has been worrisome with coalitions around new investment recommendations to improve returns and reinstate the COLA.

D. Benefits: Linda Sugarman had no report at this time.

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E. Faculty Senate:Ali Hajjafarreported:

Faculty Senate Meeting

November 4, 2021

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remark she mentioned that both Senate meetings and minutes are part of public records and members of the media are in attendance. If there are any questions or comments that senators would prefer to raise in a less public venue, they may forward them to her or any member of the Executive Committee. She will bring such questions to their meeting with the Provost. She said that President and Provost have also offered to meet with all senators in a more informal setting, watch your email for an invitation to that meeting which will be Monday, November 15. She appreciated proactiveness of the administration for soliciting feedback from the faculty and incorporating it into their decision making. She said in the agenda today there is a proposal from Executive Committee for the formation of an ad hoc committee for academic investment which fulfills the terms of section B of MOU between AAUP and administration. This ad hoc committee reviews proposals for academic investment submitted by faculty members and identifies investment needs and priorities based on annual metrics. Defines and communicates the methodology to be used in the proposals and communicates the criteria used to the faculty and makes recommendations for academic investment to the faculty senate.

She said HB 327 (the bill regarding the teaching of diverse concepts) continues to make its way through the Ohio legislature. It's been amended and likely has more revisions to go. Both faculty and administration are working with our respective state level bodies to mitigate its impact and effects. Finally, she talked about UA's advertising campaign and said the Vice President and Chief Communication and Marketing Officer has shared an overview of the campaign with the Executive Committee. She was optimistic that we will see a strong growth in enrollment.

The Executive Committee reported that since last meeting in September, they met three times including meeting with the Provost, Vice Provost Hendricks, Chief Communication and marketing Officer Tammy Evin and Dr. Matthew Akers. Subjects discussed included: House Bills 435 and 327, marketing campaign, and messaging, implementation of MOU on shared governance. At the end the Executive Committee brought a motion to the floor for the establishment of the ad hoc Academic Investment Committee, which was adopted by unanimous consent.

President Miller in his remark provided an update on legislation with impact on higher education. He said members of the administration will be meeting with legislators in the next week regarding HB327 among other things. He said the university has submitted a request for funds from the IUC capital budget for restoration of brickwork on Buchtel Commons, renovation of Polsky and for safety initiatives. He said the University is continuing its work with the city and county on safety initiatives for South of Exchange St. He said the BOT External Affairs Committee has taken a prominent role in meeting with landlords and newly appointment Director of Off-Campus Safety and recent UAPD retiree, Kerry Jackson, will oversee all campus safety and report to the President. He said CFO Grundy and he met with the city on a joint energy project that represents an opportunity for savings. He was pleased with stable ratings from Moody's and Fitch for the University. He noted the great event and nice reception by thousands of high school students who visited to experience the Ohio Supreme Court hosted by the Law School. He extended his gratitude to Janice Troutman and the Art Department for the Memorial Service honoring Maya McFetridge. He reminded senators of the Bliss Institute event at Infocision Stadium where John Green would speak on the state of political parties.

Provost Wiencek in his remark talked about recruiting and great ideas gathered from campus visits. He said recent marketing campaign have had a substantial impact on applications and they are up. Focus is now to getting admitted students to confirm. He commented on a renewed focus on the transfer and graduate students' enrollment. This includes working on articulation agreements with partners in the area. He said Peoplesoft, the University's ERP

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(Enterprise Resource Planning), has become dated and a new ERP is needed. He said a formal selection is imminent with planned implementation in January. He suggested senate to invite John Corby to the Senate to discuss the ERP. He said the College of Engineering and Polymer Science will move forward with an internal Dean search. The committee is being established and the search will progress quickly. The search for deans of Law School and College of Business are moving forward with candidates. The search for the Dean of Health and Human Sciences is underway. Other searches moving forward include the Vice Provost of Research and Graduate Studies, the Vice Provost for Pathways and the Honors College and a Director of Enrollment Management. He said implementation of the strategic plan is moving ahead, including cascading the plan down into units and departments. He finished his remark by acknowledging the intentionally slow start and the need to focus on the process and finding a rhythm for annual engagement with strategic planning.

The Senate approved the list of graduates for Fall 2021.

In committee reports, CCTC reported that they have begun the review of a draft of an information security awareness training policy that was submitted to the Faculty Senate by Informatic Technology Services. CRC brought 41 courses and 13 program proposals for approval which was adopted with unanimous consent.

AAUP representative reported that they continue to work with the Senate EC on MOU on shared governance and a committee is working on a tenure-track workload policy. She said the committee have met with HR and General Council on appointment letters for NTT faculty. She said AAUP continues to monitor and discuss HB 327 with shared governance group.

GSG reported of graduate students concerns on access to health insurance and financial insecurity. She said GSG is pursuing enhanced communication for graduate students through Brightspace and newsletters.

USG representative thanked those who attended the candlelight vigil for Maya McFetridge. She reported the USG leadership has met with the new Director of off-Campus Safety. They plan to have monthly meetings and a safety task force within USG. She said USG is implementing Microsoft Forms to collect information on general safety issues that can be relayed to Director Jackson. She directed the Senate's attention to diversity week event and promoted the diversity week website.

University Council representative reported of the first meeting of the chairs of the various standing committees that will take place to get everyone coordinated and will include strategic planning. There will be a series of presentations over the next several months. The first one was on November 9 regarding student recruitment.

This concludes the report.

Harvey Sterns reported on a subsequent informal virtual meeting on **November 15 2021** of Faculty Senate members and President Miller and Provost Wiencek. Topics included the status of Covid numbers, vaccination statistics, restrictions going forward, online courses for Spring, and recruitment efforts. There is an effort to maintain course profiles.

F. University & Community Service/Website:Dan reported the website is up to date except for actions taken today which will be posted quickly.

G. Scholarship:Interim chair Ali Hajjafar and Dan Sheffer reported:

1. Scholarship recipient KaylaHaag will be joining us at the December luncheon program. A reservation for her meal has been made.

2. Some revisions to the scholarship forms are still in process. Rita and Dan will take care of this.

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H. Newsletter: Martha Vye reported that the newsletter was flowing nicely. Because of the deadline for mailing in the new year a deadline for any reports or articles is given as December 15.

VII. Old Business:

Heather Barhorst thanked AUAR for the items donated to the Zip Assist program and Campus Cupboard after the November luncheon. 243 items were donated. If anyone is interested there are also opportunities to process items that are received.

VIII. New Business: Mel Vye introduced a motion: Until further notice, all invitations to all AUAR functions will include a statement saying that the event is limited to individuals who are fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC. Seconded by Dan Sheffer. Approved with one dissenting vote.

IX. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Jo Ann Collier, Recording Secretary

Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022:

2021 August 26; September 23; October 28; December 2.

2022 January 27; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 23
(Photos of the board will be taken at the June meeting)