

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, October 27, 2016
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on October 27th by President Diane Vukovich at 10:00am.

A. Others present included Bob Blankenship, June Burton, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Linda Sugarman, Stu Terrass, Frank Thomas, Martha Vye, and Tom Vukovich.

B. Excused: Ed Lasher, Velma Pomrenke, Dan Sheffer

II. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the September 22, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

III. Treasure's Report. Bob Blankenship reported an account balance of \$7,436.56 which indicates an increase of \$157.24 over the same period last year. There were two no show reservations at the October luncheon. Diane will contact them for payment. The 50/50 raffle yielded \$33 for our operating fund. Bob also reported that OCHER dues have been paid.

IV. Corresponding Secretary: Martha Vye has sent "congratulations" cards to Matthew Wilson and Rex Ramsier on the removal of "interim" from their titles. A "get well" card was sent to Sue Larson who is recovering from a fall.

V. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. Tom Vukovich reported that 40 members and guest were present for the October luncheon. The lecture provided an interesting historical perspective on the influence of foreign policy in presidential elections. Next month on November 9th we will welcome Steve Brooks as our speaker and hopefully enjoy an analysis of the results of the current presidential election. Matthew Wilson has accepted our request to speak at our December Holiday Luncheon, which completes the calendar for the year.

Special Events: November 4th is the date for our annual Soup and Chili Supper. Twenty-nine reservations have been received so far. Tom reminded everyone to remember to bring their white elephants wrapped as prizes for the Bingo games following dinner. Our annual February Brunch and Theater will take place on Sunday, February 12th at the Woman's City Club. The scheduled performance at the Coach House Theater will be "Mousetrap" by Agatha Christie.

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B. Membership. Frank Thomas reported that we have 22 new paid members bringing our total membership to 364. There are 34 inactive (unpaid) members whom Frank will contact. Frank also reported that since May \$4,439 has been collected for the scholarship.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee reported that the next OCHER meeting taking place on November 15th will include the induction of Dick Hill (OSU) to the "Hall of Honor.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported that Caremark, the pharmaceutical manager for the University health plans appears to be engaged in unethical practices to try to move customers to either their mail order pharmacy or to CVS. Customers going to retail pharmacies other than CVS have had their prescription rejected and told to call Caremark. When they call Caremark, they are given the option to opt out of the mail order prescription and continue using the retail pharmacy of their choice. Meanwhile the customer has been frightened because their prescription request was denied. Linda will follow through with the University benefits office on this problem.

Linda also reported that the monthly premium for retiree dependent insurance is still unknown. However, out of pocket amounts are increasing from \$1500 to \$2500 per person per year and the deductible is going from \$200 to \$400 per person. For retiree dependents on Medicare this will mean that the University will in most cases not pay anything towards medical costs until the retiree dependent has paid out of their own pocket \$2500. Essentially for those over 65 the University Retiree Dependent plan is a prescription pan and a catastrophic plan.

Linda recommends that retiree dependents look at their own individual situation every year and decide if this is the best plan for them. Compare premiums and benefits taking into consideration that if you are what Medicare considers a higher income recipient you will pay a higher premium on any Medicare Part D plan.

Diane thanked Linda for all her efforts in this area. June Burton reminded everyone that the Ohio Health Benefits Office on Tallmadge Circle offers services that were very helpful.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar presented 2 reports, one for September and one for October.

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September Faculty Senate Meeting

The Chair in his remarks introduced new senators and explained the rules of engagement. He mentioned that during the summer, the Executive Committee approved the graduation list and a few academic related topics. The Executive Committee reported that during the summer, they met with the Interim President and interim Provost few times. Topics that they discussed included: financial affairs of the University, student success, curriculum proposals, Tiger Team's report, evening classes on campus, and scholarships.

The Interim President talked about his background in detail and encouraged the faculty to be engaged in campus and student affairs, especially with recruitment of students. He talked about his accomplishments as the Dean of Law School during the nearly two years that he has served as Dean. He hoped to do the same for the University as a whole. He said that he will report on the financial standing of the University soon. He concluded his remarks by mentioning that soon (may be by next year), we should be in the position to decide strategically what kind of University we want to be.

Senators made comments about statistics related to the University and compared them with those of law school.

Interim provost in his remarks mentioned that Tiger Team's report has been given to University Council for discussion. He said that the HLC team will come to the University on Valentine's Day. The University has a lot of work to do. He asked everybody to complete a survey available on line.

Senators asked questioned about the remaining of the 18 faculty lines that were promised by then president Scarborough. He answered that he is looking for the critical needs.

At the end, a secretary and two new members for the Executive Committee were elected. Also one position for the two graduate council representatives was elected and the other position was postponed until the next meeting.

October Senate Meeting

The Chair in his remarks mentioned that the President will not be available for the meeting. The Provost is in Columbus. If he returns in time, he will join us (which he did not). The Chair talked about a resolution proposed by the Tiger Team regarding wider representation on BOT. The resolution is asking to include non-voting members from Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, UA Chairs, and University Council to serve on some Board committees such as Academic Issues/Student Success, Finance,

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Personnel/Compensation, Rules Committee, and Strategic Issues. He also talked about the expansion of Stark College. He said that we have to make sure to avoid duplication of programs offered by UA, especially in Applied Sciences and Technology. They should focus on offering subjects that are relevant to career development and not duplicate ours. He mentioned possible sharing of facilities and supports that help efficiency.

The Executive Committee reported on their meetings and their activities. Among other things, they had discussed topics such as: ending general education program early and the future of the EXL Center. They brought the Tiger Team's resolution to the floor and it was approved.

Harvey Sterns was elected as the second senate representative to Graduate Council to serve together with Phil Allen the other representative. Senator Allen as representative to Graduate Council reported that Provost Ramsier has asked for a 5 year graduate program review mandated by the Ohio Department of Education. He mentioned that HLC requires a mechanism for systematic review of undergraduate programs. To perform the review, additional members will have to be appointed which will be done by College Deans.

The stipend for teaching assistants was brought up by a Senator. The Dean of the Graduate School answered that there will not be any change from last year.

The representative to University Council reported that about \$1.8 million in IDC money from about 270 frozen accounts will be returned to individual accounts.

In new business, it was approved that a Senate ad-hoc Budget Committee to be formed. This was requested by Senator Elliot. Also it was approved that an interdisciplinary initiative committee bring recommendations to the February meeting. The EXL Center seems to be central to this proposal.

F. University & Community Service/Website. No report.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman opened a discussion concerning the future of the retirees' scholarship endowment. Ideas offered included increasing our fundraising goal for the endowment, annually presenting 3 scholarships rather than just two, or increasing the scholarship amount to \$2000 for 2 students.

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It was suggested to see if the University would match our dollars or perhaps offer an additional \$500 to our scholarship award. Tom and Diane Vukovich will bring this to discussion with either Kim Cole or Nathan Mortimer.

Carl Lieberman moved that we increase our endowment goal to \$150,000 by the 25th Anniversary of AUAR (2023). Neal Raber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion will continue on other options.

Carl also invited our scholarship recipients to attend either our November or December luncheons. He is waiting for replies.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert reported that it is time to begin thinking about our next newsletter. She is seeking suggestions for the next interview feature. November 15th is the deadline for the next issue.

VI. Unfinished Business. The issue of LeBron James' Foundation Scholarship was raised, seeking more information and clarification. Discussion followed.

VII. New Business. None

VIII. Adjournment at 11:18am. Diane reminded everyone that due to the Thanksgiving holiday our next meeting will be delayed one week.

**Respectfully submitted:
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary**

**Next Executive Board Meeting:
December 1, 2016.
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**