

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

I. **Call to Order:** The Board meeting was called to order on September 25, 2025 by President Richard Steiner at 10:00 am.

II. **Welcome and Announcements**

Members attending: Ali Hajjafar, Bob Huff , Richard Milford, Dan Sheffer, Richard Steiner, Harvey Sterns, Diane Vukovich, Tom Nichols, ,George Haritos, Doug Hausknecht, Rita Klein, Linda Sugarman

Excused: Carl Leiberman, Mary Verstraete Martha Vye, Mel Vye, Kathy DuBose, Tom Vukovich

President Steiner called the meeting to order at 10:00am.He expressed thanks to Vice President Richard Milford for chairing the meeting in his absence and commented that the September Luncheon was well attended. He noted that it was great to have Campus Helpers in attendance as our guests.

III. **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes from August 28 were presented for approval.

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

Many thanks and much appreciation to Kathy DeBose for serving as Secretary for this meeting.

III. **Treasurer's Report :**

August 2025

UA Account income: Membership dues	\$300.00
Total income	\$300.00

UA Account expenses	\$100.00
Tota Expenses	\$100.00l

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial Balance	\$12800.56	\$294.68	\$13095.24
Income	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Expenses	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Final Balance	\$13000.56	\$294.68	\$13295.24*

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Final Balance			
August 2025	\$13145.33	\$160.38	\$13305.71*

* These include dues payments for future years.

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

IV. Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sugarman reported that she had sent a get well card to Diane Vukovich and a sympathy card to the family of Raj. Aggarwal.

V. Committee Reports:

A. Programs: Diane Vukovich reported that there would be a General Membership Meeting as part of the October Luncheon Meeting. This meeting will also be the Food Drive for the Campus Cupboard. Please bring contributions. Our guest speaker for October is Senior Vice President and Provost Gwyneth Price of The University of Akron.

There was then discussion regarding plans for the Soup and Chili Event to be held on November 6. Volunteers are requested and Diane and Tom will coordinate. Please let Diane know if you are preparing a soup or chili.

There was then discussion about planning the December Luncheon Meeting for the 17th. An entertainer Bert Couch is available. His cost will be \$100.00. Linda Sugarman moved and Richard Milford seconded that \$100.00 be approved to support the December event. November Luncheon Speaker will be Mary Verstraete on the topic of Travel to All 50 States. There was discussion regarding that the food for September Luncheon Meeting was very good with 46 people attending.

B. Membership:

Dan Sheffer reported that we have 157 paid members, 58 lifetime members. 20 members did not renew at this point. Dough Hausknecht reported that he had heard back from some of the people that had been sent letters.

C. Political Action:

Bob Huff presented the OCHER Meeting Report. The meeting was held at the STRS building in Columbus on Tuesday, September 23. In addition to the regular business meeting, there were the following reports and presentations:

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Campus Reports on Akron, Bowling Green and Cincinnati.

STRS Update by Gerald Newsom, member from OSU.

Legislative Reports by Marla Bump from STRS and Gordan Gatien from STRS.

Health Care and Benefits Updates by Cristina Elliot and Greg Nickell from STRS.

Greeting and Report by Steven Toole, Executive Director of STRS

Highlights:

It is unlikely that legislation concerning the retirement systems will move forward while property tax and redistricting issues remain dominant.

The STRS Board is tied up in legal actions to stop the changes made in the last year's budget bill. It is unclear how and when this will be resolved.

STRS assets exceed \$104 billion as of Tuesday. Earnings have been very good on average for the past 20 years, but have done less well in the past 3 years. It is unclear if this might be related to the controversies and loss of investment staff.

Steven Toole, the new Executive Director made a good presentation of STRS's current situation. He is committed to long term sustainability and to doing a better job in the future of correcting some of the misinformation that has caused so much needless distraction to the staff and harm to the reputation of STRS.

The report by Gerald Newsom and the Power Point by Steven Toole will be made available.

D. Benefits:

No report. There was discussion about how to retain parking benefit beyond 2027. It was suggested that we find out more about the agreement and clarify parking issues. This will be a concern for our future meetings and Luncheons. It was suggested that we have meetings with Wally Kohlman, Special Assistant to the President and Pat Roberts, Director of Development about how to strengthen the relationship between AUAR and the university.

E. Faculty Senate: Doug Hausknecht (See attached report).

F. University & Community Services/Website:

Dan reported that our website was up to date with new President's message. He will bring the minutes up to date.

G. Scholarship: Rita Klein reported that she had sent invitations to the 3 students who have received the latest scholarships to attend our Luncheon Meetings. She has received no response. It is suggested that these recipients be invited to our December meeting.

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

VI. Old Business:

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We want to invite the other Campus Helpers to our Luncheons. So far 5 out of 14 have been able to attend. Rita Klein will follow up on this. It was felt that Jamie Newhall deserved special recognition for his recording of our speakers. It was proposed that a \$50 gift be made and one year of AUAR membership. Motion made by Dough Hausknecht and seconded by George Haritos. Motion passed.

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.

VII. New Business:

No new business,

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:09am.

Respectfully Submitted: Harvey Sterns taking notes for Mary C. Verstraete,
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 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)