

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, January 25, 2018  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

**I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on January 25<sup>th</sup> by President Neal Raber at 10:00am.**

**II. Others present included Bob Blankenship, Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Diane Vukovich and Tom Vukovich, Martha Vye, Mel Vye.**

**III. Excused: Laura Moss-Spitler, Frank Thomas**

**IV. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the December 7, 2017 meeting were approved as mailed.**

**V. Treasure's Report. Bob Blankenship reported for both November and December 2017. Our November 2017 balance was \$10,447.01 and compared favorably to our November 2016 balance of \$7,762.03. Our December 2017 balance was \$10,528.02 which also compared favorably to our December 2016 balance of \$6,569.85.**

**VI. Corresponding Secretary: Martha Vye reported that she sent a get well card to Bill Beyer this past month.**

**VII. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs. Tom Vukovich reported that our December holiday luncheon was well received and the entertainment (Lisa and Heather Malyuk) was well worth the expense.**

**Ideas are now needed to plan our luncheon programs for next year. Velma Pomrenke has already put a suggestion forward. The Board was reminded that all are encouraged to take over the oversight of one month's program during the academic year to handle luncheon speakers. We need to have the fall speakers lined up this spring. The April speaker will be Mark Price speaking about his new book. "The Akron Mafia". Tom took the opportunity to make April "Mafia Month" by setting the theme of the AUAR April Road Trip to match (See Special Events below).**

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Neal Raber thanked Dan Sheffer for assisting Bob at the sign in table in January and Frank Thomas for handling the 50/50 Raffle. In February, Rita Klein will help Bob at the sign in table and Jo Ann Collier will handle the raffle.

**Special Events: The April Road Trip will take us to Columbiana County where our last stop will include “Mobsters, Molls, and Marinara,” a murder mystery and luncheon. We will enjoy a lunch at Bone Shakers Restaurant and Event Center. After lunch the murder mystery will begin, set during the Roaring 20’s at a gin joint in Chicago.**

With several stops scheduled for the morning in Canfield, Leetonia, and Salem Ohio, bus rental has proven to be more costly than in previous years. Since our treasury appears to be stable, Tom Vukovich made a motion to keep our road trip price (\$75 per person) the same as previous years and for AUAR to subsidize the cost of the bus. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Since our usual theater Special Event had to be canceled this year, Neal has been able to schedule a winetasting event at Little City Grill in Kent. This Special Event will serve as a fundraiser for our scholarship endowment. The winetasting will take place on the evening of April 4<sup>th</sup> and will cost \$40 per person, with \$5 of this cost going into the scholarship. We will include a 50/50 raffle and add a special gift basket at this event with all proceeds going into the scholarship. More information to follow.

**B. Membership.** Frank Thomas reported that in 2017 we had 58 new members, 371 active members, 29 inactive (unpaid dues), and 400 in total membership. \$5,196 was collected for the scholarship through the membership drive.

**C. Political Action.** Bob Gandee had no report as there was no OCHER meeting.

**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman had no report this month.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Ali Hajjafar presented the following report on the December 7<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting

Chair Rich in his remarks mentioned that CRC, APC, and Part-time Faculty committee will have reports for this meeting. Also Vice Provost Sarah Cravens, the Dean of William Honors College will present a state of Honor’s College to the Senate.

President Wilson in his remarks thanked the members of the Senate and the Faculty in general for their work with and for the students. He mentioned that donations to the university have risen 26%. He reported a record gift of 23 million dollars from Jean Hower Tabor. He

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mentioned several grants, rewards, and achievements of different units of the university. He said that he is working with KSU, CSU and Youngstown University on the possibility of raising tuition once and freezing that for 4 years. He talked about the work done to attract international students and what the university can do to improve the study abroad program. He talked about E-sports and final talks to hire a director for the program. He mentioned that varsity and club programs are being planned. He elaborated on the idea of having 4-day academic schedule and a "5 Star Friday". Focus on Fridays will be on Co-ops, labs, club activities, research, etc. At the end he talked about a national search for a new position of Exec Provost and VP for Academics, keeping Rex's position as Provost/VP and Chief Administration Officer. He also talked about creation of a Chief Operational Officer to split the responsibilities of the CFO.

The Provost in his remarks talked about his meeting with the Deans regarding program reviews and hoped to bring the issues to the Senate in spring. He said he is very happy to see Bill Kraus back. He reported that the number of applications is down 25% in comparison with last year this time, but he added that the President has negotiated a one-time contract with Royale to get information out to the students. He said that the current students enrolled for spring 2017 was higher than that of spring 2016. He thinks that is because of retention efforts. He mentioned that IUC provosts met virtually to discuss OFC resolution on textbooks. He intends to do a survey of what each campus is doing. He talked about the concept of 4-day academic core, which is old by now considering yesterday's news. According to the Provost the class times will be from 6:30am to 10:30 pm.

Dean of William Honors College in her remarks mentioned that for admission to Honors College, first consideration is given to those with 3.5 GPA out of 4.0 and 27 ACT or 1210-1280 SAT. She said process for admission is much smoother now. She said the College's Academic Advisor has resigned and instead of replacing the advisor now an associate dean for research is proposed. She reported that Anthony Golluchi is serving as the director of Honors experience. She thanked the members of the advisory council and asked the faculty to bring their courses and teach them to raise the bar for Honors students.

In the committee reports, the graduation list for Fall 2017 was approved, course proposals presented by CRC were approved, and the following rule change proposed by APC was approved:

"Only college deans, academic department chairs, and school directors have authority to waive course prerequisites, provide department consent for enrollment purposes, override time conflicts, or enroll students in closed classes. College deans, academic department chairs, and school directors may delegate this authority to appropriate individuals in their respective academic units"

Part-time faculty committee brought a resolution regarding a one-time bonus to the floor and was approved.

Representative to University Council named the activities that have been discussed at UC. Subjects such as: travel, underuse of campus in summer semester, 4 day academic calendar,

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outreach and recruitment, and mandatory TB test for international students coming from countries with high incidents of TB.

**F. University & Community Service/Website.** Dan Scheffer will continue to post the AUAR minutes to the website. Janet Mealy helps with the web postings and has been a tremendous asset.

**G. Scholarship.** Carl Leiberman reported that he has received no new figures from Development. He will invite our other scholarship recipient, Brooke Kendra, to attend one of our spring luncheons if she can. She was unable to attend in the fall.

**H. Newsletter.** Pam Rupert reported that the Newsletter turned out well and has received great comments about it. The next one is already underway.

**VIII. Unfinished Business.** The amendment to the AUAR Constitution will need to be voted on one more time at the next AUAR Luncheon. Rita Klein will send a blurb to Janet Mealy to include the wording of the amendment and notice of vote on the next flier that goes out for the luncheon.

**IX. New Business.** Neal announced the creation of the Nominating Committee and charged them with soliciting nominations for the Positions of Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Public Relations, Faculty Senators, and 3 Board Members-at-Large. Nominations are due February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**X. Adjournment at 11:02.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary

**Next Executive Board Meeting:  
February 22, 2018.  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**