

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, September 25, 2014
Alumni Office Conference Room, Infocision Stadium**

1. **Opening Remarks:** The meeting was called to order by President June Burton at 10 a.m. Others present were Bob Blankenship, Stu Terrass, Bob Gandee, Frank Thomas, Neal Raber, Dan Sheffer, Pam Rupert, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Diane and Tom Vukovich, Hank Nettling and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were Karl Lieberman, Linda Sugarman and Ed Lasher. The minutes of the August 28, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

2. **Treasurer** Bob Blankenship reported an available balance as of August 31, 2014 of \$9,243.31. This compares with a balance of \$7,894.80 on August 2013. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit. Bob recently moved to a new residence. Please note his new phone number: 330-664-1149.

3. **Committee reports.**
 - A. **Programs.** Tom Vukovich was please to report that Dr. Mark and Dr. Sandy Auburn's September 10 "Africa Travelogue" was very well received. It also generated a record attendance. For the customary "Thank You" gift, June Burton found an appropriate pair of English bone china mugs with an African motif as decoration.

At the October 8 luncheon, speaker Dr. Jenny Stanley will give the results of her research on Emotions and Aging.

On Friday November 7 we hold our traditional Soup and Chili Supper at the traditional location: Goodyear Heights lodge.

Speakers at our November 12 luncheon programs will be Kim David Kovesci, Executive Director of the MAPS Air Museum, as well as Ralph Lynn, a WWII veteran giving us tales of WWII aviation missions.

Dan Sheffer reported on a Wine Tasting event which will serve as an additional source of money for our AUAR Scholarship Fund. It will take place Thursday, November 13 from 4 - 6 p.m. at Riverside Wine and Import in Kent. The motion was made: "The Executive Board approves the Wine Tasting event to be held Thursday, November 13 from 4 - 6 p.m. he cost will be \$20 per person, of which \$10 goes into the AUAR Scholarship Fund. " The motion was approved unanimously.

The planning for our traditional Holiday Party, scheduled for December 10, is still under way. Tom Vukovich noted that he is in touch with Blinn Scatterday for this event.
 - B. **Membership.** Frank Thomas distributed an on-going 2014 membership XL Spread Sheet which shows that as of September 2014, we have 285 Active or paid up members. The Spread Sheet also showed that we had 72 "members" who have not paid their dues.
 - C. **Political Action.** Statistics taken by Hank Nettling at the September 19 OCHER meeting focussed on STRS retirement funds. All retiree Board members should have received results of the STRS Board meeting.

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D. Benefits.

Reporting for Linda Sugarman,, Neal Raber called attention to the fact that many faculty retirees have difficulties in properly using the ZipTix card. The free ZipTix program for retirees will continue again this year

E. Faculty Senate. Sept. 4, 2014

The first meeting of the school year began with recognizing the new Senators and welcoming the new President, Dr. Scott Scarborough. In his opening remarks, Chair Bill Rich mentioned that with one exception, all of the actions taken by the Senate in May that required the approval of the President were approved by the President, and those that further required approval of the Board of Trustees were presented to and approved by the Board. The exception is the Senate resolution recommending that the teaching load limit for part time faculty members be increased from eight to nine credit hours per semester, and that the requirement that part time faculty members report their hours worked be eliminated. He said that he was told that the administration requested a legal opinion from outside counsel on this matter, and has yet to receive it. He then pointed out that in February, representatives of the Higher Learning Commission will be visiting campus again, having done so two years ago as part of the regular reaccreditation process. This follow up visit will focus on two issues that were identified as problem areas during the last visit - the university governance process and the process for assessing student learning.

Chair Rich informed the Senate that recently the college deans were invited to submit requests for approval to fill vacant faculty positions for the 2015/2016 academic year. They were asked to restrict their requests to critical needs. In all, approximately \$7.5 million in requests were submitted. Central administration has said that approximately \$2.5 million of these requests will be approved.

He then went on to talk about the selection of President Scarborough when he said, "The Board heeded the advice of the faculty representatives. There should be no doubt that our advice was ultimately determinative of the outcome."

Then Chair Rich said, "I've had several interactions with President Scarborough since his appointment. I've found his directness, clarity of thought, and expression and candor to be refreshing.

Next, Faculty Senate approved the move of the Department of Counseling from the College of Education to the College of Health Professions.

In his remarks, President Scarborough indicated that he was both honored and grateful to be serving the University as President and that he appreciated the invitation to address Faculty Senate and to answer questions.

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E. Faculty Senate(cont.)

Provost Sherman then spoke and reported that we had 19,000 more applicants this Year compared to last. The freshmen enrollment increased about two percent compared to last year. The number of full time incoming freshmen to the main campus is up 9.4 percent with slightly higher GPAs and ACT scores. 600 new honor students joined us compared to about 350 last year. We made some increases in the diversity of the student body, and our newly created underrepresented scholarships were awarded to about 274 students. Orientation for 200 new faculty and teaching assistants was successful and it included breakout sessions covering many topics including the handling of issues related to student conduct.

Provost Sherman mentioned that different from the past, about 30 minutes to an hour of every Council of Deans meeting will have the President present to update the group and to answer questions.

Senator Bouchard asked, "When are we actually going to have enough faculty? This last year figures that I've been able to get so far is that we lost about 40 tenured or tenure track faculty either retired or left for a better job elsewhere. I think one person was denied tenure. So we lost about 40 of them and we got 14 new ones. This is not a good ratio. So we're down by 26. We've had 40 faculty members who have said unequivocally that they're out of here at the end of this year."

Provost Sherman replied, "Well, I guess the answer to that question is we have faculty. Our students are becoming more successful by measures that we've measured. Research productivity has increased with regard to externally funded research. So I think we're heading in a very, very positive direction."

Senator Erickson expressed her concerns about the lack of succession planning, i.e., developing a strategy ahead of time for replacing retirees rather than making last minute decisions.

Provost Sherman said that every attempt was being made to evaluate the critical needs of the deans and to let them know which positions have been approved in a timely manner.

Senator Lillie brought up a major concern. During the period that Zook Hall is being renovated, the faculty members in the College of Education are being housed in the Central Hower building. Faculty are in Dilbert type cubicles with sides that only reach a height of a few feet. There is no privacy and each faculty member has only a desk, a

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E. Faculty Senate(cont.)

chair, one bookcase, and a file cabinet and far less space than the 110 square feet required by state law. The faculty members were not consulted as to their needs before they were housed there. In order to speak privately with a student, an empty room has to be found! After complaints were made, the only solution was to increase the height of the dividers of the cubicles. Senator Sterns pointed out that only after his urgings were faculty members consulted about their needs with respect to the renovation of Zook Hall.

The Senate meeting did adjourn around 5:00 pm.

Neal Raber and Bob Gandee

F. Community Service. No report.

G.Scholarship. Hank Netting reported that we do not yet have a new Scholarship student. Our Scholarship Fund stands at \$65,011.25. The Scholarship committee consists of George Knepper, William Beyer, Karl Lieberman and Hank Nettling.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert reported that there was a need to run off more copies of the Fall 2014 AUAR Newsletter than first scheduled. In addition, it was noted that copies of our Newsletter, available to our guests at our monthly luncheons, were well received.

4.New Business. We were informed that President Emeritus Marion Ruebel was quite ill.

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary.
**Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday, October 23.
Alumni Office Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium.**

Minutes (52)