

The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, February 28, 2013
Alumni Conference Room, Stitzlein Center

1. **Opening:**The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Bob Gandee. Others present were Bob Blankenship, Linda Sugarman, Ed Lasher, Loren Hoch, Carl Lieberman, Velma Pomrenke, June Burton, Neal Raber, Diane and Tom Vukovich, Hank Nettling and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were Barbara Banks, Frank Thomas, Pam Rupert and Marilyn Carrell. The minutes of the January 24, 2013 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Treasurer** Bob Blankenship reported an available balance of \$7,216.87 as of January 31, 2013. This compares with a balance of \$7,072.66 as of January, 2012. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit. See attached financial summary.
3. **Committee reports.**
 - A.Programs.** Diane Vukovich reported a very satisfactory attendance at the February 17 Coach House Theater Party: 43 attendees at the Woman's City Club luncheon, 52 attended the Agatha Christie Theater production. Tom Vukovich reported that the speaker at the March 13 luncheon will be our Head Football Coach, Mr. Terry Bowden. Tom brought us up to date on the April 26 Road Trip: visits to the Root Candle Company in Medina and Seville Historical Society, lunch at the Cork Screw Saloon. Bus rental will be in the \$900 range, with a cost of \$55 per person assuming 30 participants.
 - B. Membership.** No report.
 - C. Political Action / Affiliates.** No report.
 - D. Benefits.** No report.
 - E. Faculty Senate.** Neal Raber reports on the meeting of February 7, 2013. Chairman Rich announced that the March meeting would be devoted to a discussion of MOOCs (massive open online courses).
Provost Sherman mentioned that the Governor's budget proposal put a cap on tuition increases at 2%. It also provided for 1.9% increases in instruction dollars for each of the fiscal years 2014 and 2015, because the Governor was pleased with the higher learning institution presidents working together to develop a performance based strategy to the funding formula. Provost Sherman also reminded the senators that Vision 2020 goals included 80% job placement of graduates and 60% graduation rate. He also mentioned that there would be a \$7,000,000 net investment in additional faculty after retirements were considered.

During the portion of the meeting devoted to questions for the Provost, concern was expressed about the directive to deans to increase the sizes of summer classes and to only offer courses that contribute to a student's graduation requirements.

Senator Witt wondered if the Provost was aware of the section in the state budget bill that increased faculty workload.

After a lengthy question and answer period, Provost Sherman left the meeting. Some senators then complained to Vice Provost Ramsier that the online course proposal approval system left much to be desired. He said that IT (Information Technology Services, also known as Computer Center) was working on improving the system; however due to the fact that funding had been diverted from support units to academics, progress is not at a very fast pace.

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3. Committee reports.(cont.)

F. University and Community Contacts. No report.

G. Service and Scholarship. Hank Nettling reports that \$54,888.67 has been donated to our AUAR Scholarship fund to date.

H. Newsletter. No report.

4. Unfinished business.

A. Speaker at our March 13 luncheon is Terry Bowden, UA Head Football Coach.

B. Diane Vukovich reported she attended the 100th Birthday Party Celebration of our University colleague Louis Rodabaugh. His daughter Kay Reyes was in charge of preparing the Birthday Party which became a Memorial to Dr. Rodabaugh. Neal shared details and recollections with us, such as the birthday cake which was shared with everyone, the fact that Dr. Rodabaugh's father was mayor of Findlay and had a run-in with the gangster Al Capone, and the fact that Dr. Rodabaugh, mathematician that he was, also served as the organist at Greentown United Methodist Church.

D. The nomination committee for preparing the slate to elect new Board members are Neal Raber, chair, with Newt Engle and Pam Rupert to complete the committee.

E. An example of the AUAR Mugs which will be used as Thank You gifts to our speakers was circulated at our meeting table for our inspection.

F. Honors College Student Selection. Carl Lieberman attended and participated in the selection process. As an interviewer he "evaluated" one student, a graduating senior Firestone High School student.

G. Scholarship Fund Solicitations. A hand-out, entitled Memorial Gifts, was circulated to our board members. This is a preliminary statement of how to make a memorial contribution to our AUAR Retirees Scholarship Fund (as one example) in the name of a loved one who has passed away. The hand-out is intended as a rough draft and open to changes by our board.

5. New Business. A final item, distributed to all board members present and addressed to Robert Gandee, President AUAR, was a brief statement, dated February 17, 2013, from Board member / Faculty Senator John Gwinn: "Regretfully I must submit my resignation as an AUAR representative to the Faculty Senate."

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary.

Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday, March 28, 2013.