

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, February 27, 2014
Alumni 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, Bob Gandee, Neal Raber, Ed Lasher, Diane and Tom Vukovich, Linda Sugarman and Carl Lieberman. Absent with notice were Frank Thomas, Barbara Banks, Hank Nettling, Dan Sheffer, Velma Pomrenke and Loren Hoch. The minutes of the January 23, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

2. Treasurer: Bob Blankenship reported an available balance of \$7,095.03 as of January, 31, 2014. This compares with a balance of \$7,216.87 for January, 2013. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Programs. Diane Vukovich was very pleased to report a fine attendance at the February 16 brunch and that 52 theater goers enjoyed another Agatha Christie presentation at the Coach House Theater. Tom Vukovich provided information for our fall luncheons.

- a) September 10. Mark and Sandy Auburn will present a program on their visit to Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar.
- b) October 8. Speaker Dr. Jennifer Stanley reports on her research subject: Older Adults.
- c) November 12. Bruce Ford will speak on his favorite photography subject: the City of Akron.
- d) April 25. Our spring bus trip will take us in the morning to the Portage County Historical Society, then to Hiram College for lunch. Afternoon visits are still to be decided.

The closing discussion called attention to our January 2014 luncheon with Susan Graham speaking on Downtown Akron. It was pointed out that we had an attendance of 24 people being seated at 4 tables. The question came up should we plan to have a January, 2015 Wednesday luncheon? After discussion a motion was made to drop the January 2015 Wednesday luncheon. The vote passed unanimously.

B. Membership. No report.

C. Political action: June Burton had distributed STRS update by e-mail. A discussion focused on information on retirement benefits.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported that the collective bargaining contract between the University of Akron and the AAUP only runs through June 30, 2015. The paragraph titled Retiree Spouse and Dependent Healthcare Coverage seems to refer only to faculty members who retire during the term on the contract.

E. Faculty Senate: Neal Raber reported on the meeting of February 6, 2014. In his remarks, President Proenza reported that spring enrollment is better than expected and applications were up 40%. He said that he had launched a series of initiatives to generate significant progress during this semester to leave the university in its trajectory for improvement and indeed in better shape for his successor. As to the suspensions of the 55 programs, he said, "Let me hasten to add that suspend is not necessarily being sunset or eliminate, as many of you have already been actively working on how to

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E. Faculty Senate (cont.):

transform those programs or merge them into others or enhance them in other ways. But in any case, as this process continues, I do ask that you provide the feedback of This body at your April 3rd meeting, so that the recommendations can be ready for consideration by the Board of Trustees at its April 23rd meeting. He emphasized that the national date for college confirmation is May 1st, so it's simply vital that we keep ourselves moving in an appropriate way to provide notice as notice may be required. Enrolled students in any program that is either suspended or eventually changed in other ways will be given the opportunity to finish their degree programs.

Provost Sherman referred to The University of Akron as a STEM intensive institution. "The Board of Trustees passed the resolution recognizing the important role of the Faculty Senate in the next step of the process to inform final recommendations that will be entertained at the Board of Trustees meeting April 23rd, 2014." The rest of the meeting was devoted to a debate on the suspensions of the 55 programs. A motion was passed that the President's proposals to suspend the 55 academic programs be referred to the Academic Policies Committee, and that the Curriculum Review Committee be directed to advise the Academic Policies Committee on the effects of the proposed suspensions on other academic programs.

F. Communications Committee.

At our Feb. 3rd meeting, we heard a report from the two new hires, Jessica Bixby and Steve Sedlock, about the work they are doing creating electronic and social media to be used by all students. I also met Bob Kropf who told me that he received a ton of requests for the Email Digest after our last newsletter went out.

G: Athletics Committee. At our Feb. 7th meeting, we approved a recommendation to Faculty Senate that UA join COIA, (the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics). It is a group of faculty representatives advocating reform in intercollegiate athletics ensuring that athletics enhances rather than undermines the academic mission.

H. University and Community Events. Dan Sheffer reports that the Special Events have been and will be updated monthly to show a current listing of campus and community events on the AUAR web page. Jeff Silbert, the HR System Administrator, will post the updated list that will be sent by Dan Sheffer monthly.

I. Scholarships. No report.

J. Newsletter. No report.

- 4. Unfinished Business.** Ed Lasher distributed sample ballot sheets. The discussion that followed made it clear that "we have a job in front of us" to identify and get in touch with retirees who will accept a request to run for the open positions. A number of potential members were identified. Ed Lasher will get in touch with these people..

The Board meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary

**Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday, March 27, 2014
Alumni Office Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

• Minutes (47)