

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, September 27, 2012
Alumni Conference Room, Stitzlein Center**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Bob Gandee. Others present were Carl Lieberman, Bob Blankenship, June Burton, Neal Raber, Linda Sugarman, Loren Hoch, Frank Thomas, Pam Rupert, Hank Nettling, Ed Lasher, Diane Vukovich, and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were Jim Fee, Barbara Banks, Marilyn Carrell and Tom Vukovich. The minutes of the August 23 meeting were approved as written.
- II **Treasurer** Bob Blankenship reported an available balance on August 31, 2012 of \$9,008.61. This compares with a balance of \$8,979.68 on August 31, 2011. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit. See attached financial summary.
- III **Committee Reports.**
- A. Programs.** On the subject of speakers for our monthly luncheons, Diane Vukovich gave us two more names. We will be hearing Daniel Hovavatter, now a senior, who studied in Japan as the University's International Student Ambassador. Also on the schedule will be Mark Price, staff writer for the Akron Beacon Journal, who writes an every Monday column on local history. The University of Akron Press has just published Price's book The Rest is History. Two more speakers are needed to complete the list. Our two AUAR Scholarship recipients will be introduced at the November luncheon.
- B. Membership.** No report.
- C. Political Action / Affiliates.** Hank Nettling distributed several hand-outs which generated considerable discussion.
- a) A five-page summary of the changes in our STRS pension plan components. This is the long-awaited pension reform plan (Sub. Senate Bill 342) which passed on September 12, 2012. Most of these changes will take effect on and after July 1, 2013.
- b) Two large Health Care charts which are the 2013 plan overview charts for Medicare and Non-Medicare enrollees.
- c) A six-page summary of the STRS Health Care program, informing us of the STRS Board's Strategic Goal and Framework. Information in this summary is conveyed by charts and graphs.
- D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported on retiree spouse and dependent Health Care coverage. According to the Office of Human Resources, open enrollment will start no later than November 1, 2012. There are no premium increases expected for retiree dependents over the age of 65.
- E. Faculty Senate.** Neal Raber reported on the meeting of Sept. 6, 2012.
- The Senate meeting began with Vice Chair Bill Rich presiding while Senator Harvey Sterns was seated in the front row and listed on the roster as Ex-officio Past Chair. It so happens that Senator Sterns had another year as Chair of Faculty Senate, but his term on Senate expired last year. Bylaws require that the Vice Chair fill out the term of Chair.

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, September 27, 2012
Alumni Conference Room, Stitzlein Center**

Because of the delay last year in preparing the minutes of Senate meetings, a court stenographer, Laura Melby, has been hired to assist Heather Loughney and the Senate Secretary, Frank Bove. She took notes at the meeting. The minutes from last school year through the April meeting are available on the Faculty Senate web site. President Proenza began by reporting that the Pathways to Student Success recommendation to reduce remedial education was moving forward. He mentioned that the presidents of the state institutions of higher education would be meeting to determine how the state funds would be allocated to the various universities and two-year schools. He mentioned that UA faculty salaries were ranked third or fourth in the state. Also, a new faculty driven committee was being formed to deal with the on-line initiative. Negotiations with Pearson had ended.

Provost Sherman reported that many courses were being offered at a variety of times in order to better utilize campus facilities and faculty. There were 66 new faculty hired and an orientation for part-time faculty members was reinstated prior to the start of the fall semester. He reported that the Pathway strategy of restricting admission has contributed to the 3.3% drop in enrollment. Due to the enrollment decline which translated to a \$10 million shortfall, academic units were asked to reduce budgets by 3% and non-academic units by 6%. He commented that in the future, colleges would be charged with accomplishing academic agendas, rather than looking at the academic mission through a division between academic units and academic support units.

The ad hoc Committee on Criminal Justice and Summit College informed us that the committee was developing a new proposal that would take advantage of the strengths of the faculty in both colleges. The Senate approved the naming of the engineering building located at 264 Wolf Ledges Parkway: "The University of Akron Engineering Research Center." Senator Erickson reported that currently the bylaws of University Council are being rewritten. The Senate passed a resolution recognizing the service of Past Chair Harvey Sterns to the Faculty Senate.

F. University and Community Service. AUAR Scholarship. No report.

G. Newsletter. Pam Rupert reports that the Fall 2012 edition of the AUAR Newsletter was prepared, printed and distributed on schedule. Pam is collecting new material, with the new deadline being early December, 2012.

IV. Unfinished Business. Bob Gandee distributed the summary of the planning involved for the Successful Aging Symposium. It is now a matter of accepting registrations.

V. New Business. Bob Gandee noted that we should begin thinking of new names for filling Executive Board changes for next term.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary

Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday, October 25, 2012.