

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, February 26, 2015
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, Velma Pomrenke, Bob Gandee, Neal Raber, Carl Lieberman, Linda Sugarman, Ed Lasher, Rita Klein, Diane and Tom Vukovich, Cathy Edwards and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were FrankThomas, Hank Nettling, Loren Hoch and Pam Rupert. The minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting were approved as corrected.

2. **Treasurer:** Bob Blankenship reported an available balance of \$7,104.75 as of January 31, 2015. This compares with a balance of \$7,095.05 as of January 31, 2014.

3. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. Tom Vukovich noted that Bruce Ford, retired official Akron city photographer, our luncheon speaker on February 11, was very well received. Speaker at the March 11 luncheon will be Professor Margery Koosed describing in word and picture notable flower gardens in England and France. On April 8 Tom and Diane Vukovich will describe their trip to Russia from August 2014.

Tom distributed for our information the upcoming luncheon dates and speakers confirmed so far. September 9, 2015, Mel Vye; November 11, 2015, Frank Thomas. Other events: November 6, 2015, Soup and Chili Supper; Dec. 9, 2015, Holiday Party.

Neal Raber and Tom reviewed our Bus Road Trip to Cleveland coming up on April 24. The cost per person will be in the range of \$57.

Diane Vukovich reported on our program at the Woman's City Club on Sunday, February 15th. In spite of the bitter cold weather, 35 people enjoyed a fine Brunch, 45 people were happy to attend the presentation of Agatha Christie's Towards Zero. The running joke of course was that the play's name matched the weather.

B. Membership. Rita Klein reported that she will send out another mailing to new retirees, going out next week. The missing retiree, Larry Kelley, has been found.

There was a typing error in his name on the roster. He should be receiving e-mail now.

C. Political Action. June Burton called attention to the current issue of STRS Update. The front page lead article refers to a 30 Year Closed Amortization Period. Discussion from the floor indicated that no one in our group knew quite what information the article was giving us.

D. Benefits. No report.

E. FACULTY SENATE MEETING Feb. 5, 2015

Chair Rich began the meeting with the remarks that the combatants at the Dec. 11, 2011 meeting – the faculty from the Dept. of Sociology, the Dept. of Political Science,

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E. FACULTY SENATE MEETING Feb. 5, 2015(cont.)

and the Dept. of Criminal Justice – after 3 years had reached an agreement to move Criminal Justice to the College of Arts & Sciences. Later in the meeting, Faculty Senate formally approved the move of the faculty and the Department of Criminal Justice from CAST to CAS.

In his remarks, President Scarborough mentioned that the College Strategic Planning Process was moving forward. Colleges that have not completed the process in time for the upcoming budget determination will have a pool of funds set aside for them. He mentioned that the searches for the Vice President for Advancement, the Chief Information Officer, and the Vice Provost and Executive Dean of CAST were nearing completion; but, the searches for the Deans of the Graduate School and the Honors College had not begun. In his remarks, Provost Sherman pointed out that the fall to spring retention rate was 89%. There was a 3.5% decline in credit hours from last year; however the budget was set for a 4% decline.

Senator Bouchard asked the first question of the Provost. It concerned faculty improvement leaves. Of the 32 submissions, only 16 were approved. She said, “Faculty members who were denied a leave received form letters that essentially said that their research stinks!” She opined that perhaps these denials were because faculty members are naughty children who need to be disciplined by the administration.

Other senators questioned how the decisions were made and whether a leave is denied on financial reasons or on the quality of the proposal. Associate Provost Ramsier explained that requests go up the chain of command from the department chairs to the dean and they are ranked before they get to the Provost’s Office. He said decisions are made after consideration is given to the impact on a department in covering the leave. In response, some senators complained that denials then are affected by the lack of faculty. This situation is caused by the understaffing as a result of not being allowed to hire necessary faculty.

Ramsier remarked that faculty members denied a leave could meet with him to see what changes they could make in their submissions to get approval next year and that two leaves were approved this time after being denied previously. Ramsier angrily told Senator Bouchard that her numbers were off and there were more than 16 denials, so he did not have time for personal letters. He also said that he was frustrated by the fact that there is no budget item for covering the costs of faculty improvement leaves and he hoped that would be rectified in the new budget process.

The next important item of business was the Part Time Faculty Committee Report which included a resolution for raising salaries. The resolution stated that the current minimum salary levels for part-time faculty have been in effect since 2001, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics data show an increase in the Consumer Price Index of 33.5% in that time. The raises would be as follows: Assistant Lecturer - \$800, Associate Lecturer – \$950, and Senior Lecturer - \$1100. Their report pointed out that keeping up with the CPI

from 2001 to now would result in the following increases in order to have the same buying power.

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E. FACULTY SENATE MEETING Feb. 5, 2015 (cont.)

2001	2014
\$600	\$806
\$700	\$940
\$800	\$1075

It was pointed out that even with these raises, we would not be competitive and Kent State would still be paying more. The motion passed without dissent. The report from the University Council representatives indicated that President Scarborough had asked Nathan Mortimer to work with students to show greater transparency in student fees. The meeting adjourned at 4:35!

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

The Communication Committee met on Monday, January 26, and we previewed the four commercials that would start airing on Super Bowl Sunday. Much work has been done in house this year and the total cost was \$95, 000, which is considerably less than the \$250,000 spent in the past. The commercials were airing only on WKYC. Each one highlights a graduate of UA, who achieved his or her dream. One of which is about Mario Garzia, who was a mathematics major inspired by his Calculus II professor. He eventually got his PhD at Case and was recruited by Microsoft. Among other things, he worked on the development of *Bing*. The mathematics professor who inspired him was David Buchthal.

Also at the meeting, we learned that some 40 UA employees met together with the consulting agency devising a Crisis Communication Comprehensive Plan. In addition, I was recruited to be on a subcommittee to develop a Smoking Ban Survey for the campus community. We had to take into consideration e-cigarettes, vaporizers, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, snus, chewing tobacco, and hookahs!

ATHLETICS COMMITTEE

The Athletics Committee met on Feb. 5. We learned from Athletic Director Tom Wistrick and his staff that the NCAA has two measures for student athletes - APR (Academic Progress Rate) and GSR (Graduate Success Rate). A sport needs a 93% APR to participate in post season. We looked at the APR's of the various sport teams at UA and how they compared with other MAC schools. We also were shown the 6 year GSR rates at UA.

On the financial side, even though athletics receives 17 to 18 million, because many dollars are returned to pay for housing, tuition, etc., the net cost is 11 million. That is considered marketing costs by some. At the meeting, Tim Lillie mentioned that the budget for the entire College of Education is half that of Athletics Department and

serves 3500 students where there are approximately 455 student-athletes, of which 334 receive athletics aid and 280 made the Dean's List last semester. We also learned that to maintain Division 1 status, a university must have 16 teams.

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ATHLETICS COMMITTEE (cont.)

UA has 19. The Athletics Department is now considering improvements of JAR, because realistically a downtown arena is not a feasible alternative for at least another 10 years.

F. Community Service. No report.

G. AUAR Scholarship. Hank Nettling is letting us know that the Controller's Department will give us the figures in March as to the exact financial amount of our Scholarship Fund.

H. Newsletter. A discussion from the floor indicated that we need to double check information items such as telephone numbers of our officers who are listed in each semi-annual edition of our Newsletter.

New Business. A discussion from the floor indicated that we need to prepare a Slate of Candidates for those Board members whose term expires in 2015. The candidate committee consists of Cathy Edwards, Neal Raber and Pam Rupert.

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:35. Minutes (56)

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary.
Next Executive Board Meeting is March 26, 2015.
Alumni Office Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium.

