

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, January 23, 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, Tom and Diane Vukovich, Hank Nettling, Neal Raber, Bob Gandee, Dan Sheffer, Pam Rupert, Loren Hoch, Linda Sugarman, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were Barbara Banks and Frank Thomas. The minutes of the December 5, 2013 meeting were approved as written.
- 2. Treasurer Report:** Bob Blankenship reported for two months. The available balance for November, 2013 was \$7,588.61. The available balance for December, 2013 was \$7,581.94 compare with a balance of \$8,237.76 as of December 2012. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit.
- 3. Committee Reports:**
 - A.** Tom Vukovich reported that our speaker at the February 12, 2014 luncheon will be John Gurnish speaking on the History of Summit County in the Civil War. Will he appear in a Civil War military uniform? Armed? Come and see. Concern about parking was brought up and that handicapped and that parking may not always be available. A further concern is that such allotted parking cones must be removed by the handicapped driver.
State Senator Tom Sawyer could not accept our invitation to speak at one of our luncheons next fall. He may be available the following year. Tom distributed a listing of calendar dates for events reaching into May 2015. We are ever on the look-out for appropriate gifts for our luncheon guest speakers, Tom was pleased to show us his recent purchase of attractive umbrellas. They are available in our school colors of blue and gold, and in two sizes: huge for the golfer, standard as a rain umbrella.
 - B. Membership.** A nine-page membership listing was distributed. The listing included both active (paid) and inactive (not paid) "members." Currently we have 271 active members. June Burton reported that Frank Thomas requested to withdraw from the AUAR Executive Board position of Vice President, but will continue to serve as Chair of The Membership Committee.
 - C. Political Action.** No report.
 - D. Benefits.** Linda Sugar man reports that retiree dependents received their Apex medical Insurance cards. Apex is a branch of Summa. All 2014 health insurance benefits are supposed to be the same as those for 2013.
 - E. Faculty Senate.** Neal Raber reported on the meeting of December 5, 2013. The last meeting of the school year began with punch and cookies. In his remarks, Chairman Rich told the senators that he has been reassured that the campus visits of candidates for president would not take place until the start of the spring semester. He also mentioned that any proposal to eliminate an academic program should come to the Faculty Senate so that the administration and the Board of Trustees can have the benefit of the Senate's advice.

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E. Faculty Senate(cont.)

He also informed the senators that the Executive Committee recently appointed a subcommittee charged with making recommendations about policies affecting faculty research and about the creation, reorganization and elimination of centers and institutes. In his remarks, President Proenza mentioned that over the past six years at UA, we have increased our graduation completion rate by 35 percent, as well as the number of students that are graduating each year.

The President continued by lecturing to the Senate with the following comments: "Colleagues, I've been in this business for more years than I'd care to admit. We always, always all of us want more resources than there are. So right now what we've got to focus on is how we increase retention, because that's one of the vital things from the fall semester to the spring semester and to the sophomore year when we have a major drop off. That's a huge, huge drain on our revenue projections." So let's get real, folks. Unless we have people coming in the door, we're not going to have the money to keep your good center, Harvey, going; your good works in ethics and bio ethics going or many other things that hey, I would love to do. Okay?"

Then the Senate passed a proposed change to the part time faculty appointments rule which read, "Part time faculty are appointed for one academic term. A part time faculty member does not have a reasonable expectation of reappointment for the next academic term unless he or she receives from the department chair, school director, or dean written notice of a teaching assignment for the next academic term.

The meeting continued with Senator Lillie reporting that the University Council bylaws, which had originally been presented by the Provost in August and September and caused great consternation, had been withdrawn. He continued by stating that had the Faculty Senate not stood up and really pushed back, the University Council would be operating under a completely unacceptable set of bylaws.

Next a resolution to include the University Libraries in the curriculum approval process, when a change of delivery mode of a course was under consideration was approved.

Vice Provost Ramsier pointed out that the Graduate School does not report to the Office of the Provost.

F. University and Community Events. No report.

G.Scholarships. Hank Nettling reported that to date, total giving into our Scholarship fund is \$58,560.24. The market value as of December 31, 2013 is \$59,540.79.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert expressed her appreciation for the help she received in distributing the AUAR Newsletter, Winter 2013/2014 edition. Three hundred copies were printed. The next edition is planned for August, 2014.

4.Unfinished Business. Discussion focused on two topics.

A. Who on our board will be serving as a nominating committee for the next election? After much discussion we agreed on Dan Sheffer, Loren Hoch and Ed Lasher.

B. Additional discussion made it clear that it would be in our own best interest to invite potential retirees to attend our Board meetings. The Board meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary

Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday, February 27, 2014