

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, December 5, 2013
Alumni Conference Room at InfoCision Stadium**

1. **Opening Remarks:**The meeting was called to order by President June Burton at 10 A.M. Others present were Hank Nettling, Bob Gandee, Carl Lieberman, Frank Thomas, Barbara Banks, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Velma Pomrenke, Linda Sugarman, Loren Hoch, Tom and Diann Vukovich, Ed Lasher, Bob Blankenship and HansZbinden. Absent with leave was Dan Sheffer.

Because copies of the previous minutes were not available to us today, approval of the minutes of October 24, 2013 was deferred.

2. **Treasurer** Bob Blankenship reported an available balance of \$7,280.18 as of October 31, 2013.This compares with a balance of \$8,205.41 as of October 31, 2012. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit.

3. **Committee Reports.**

- A. **Programs.** Tom Vukovich reports that our speaker for the January 8, 2014 luncheon will be Suzanne H. Graham. She is president of Downtown Akron Partnership. Discussion from the floor brought up the name of State Senator Tom Sawyer as a suitable luncheon speaker. There was no objection. June Burton will make the contact. Dates for the next fall luncheons are September 10, October 8. November 12 and December 10, 2014.

- B. **Membership.** Frank Thomas reports that we have 354 names on file, of whom 241 are active (paid) and 113 inactive (have not paid).

- C. **Political Action.** Hank Nettling outlined a wide variety of legislative issues that came under discussion at the OCHER meeting of November 19, 2013. Of interest to retirees, STRS will undertake an every 4 year review of its actuarial rate.

- D. **Benefits.** Linda Sugarman called attention to 2 name changes that may appear on our insurance cards. For 2014, Apex will be listed on your insurance cards. Apex is a part of Summa. Using the Apex name will help providers distinguish between Summacare and those who are covered by the University of Akron as a self funded indemnity plan. The Pharmacy manager will change to Caremark; Linda noted that Caremark is owned by CVS.

- E. **Faculty Senate.** Senator Bob Gandee reported on the meeting of November 7, 2013. With the President's eye on "degree completion duration", the faculty was encouraged to continue to develop viable interdisciplinary programs and to work to remove the barriers to such programs. He also called for the faculty's implementation of a seamless, two year general education program applicable to almost any degree program, as well as the credit hour reduction for all programs of study to 120 credits unless constrained by accreditation requirements.

With respect to enrollment, he advised the faculty that degree and general education courses must be offered outside of the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. time frame

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F. Faculty Senate(cont.)

to comply with the nontraditional schedule of our nontraditional students. This sounds familiar, because the University once had the "Dean of the Evening College and Summer School."

The discussion of expediting the change process for the mode of a course offering was followed by much discussion relative to who was sufficiently knowledgeable to make the evaluations. It was felt that the faculty of the traditional department is capable of evaluating the course content. However, who would provide the expert evaluation for the delivery mode of the course under consideration? The impact on the library of the mode of the course offering was inserted into the discussion. With the insight on these issues, the discussion of the course offering mode change was postponed until the December meeting of the Senate.

F. University and Community Service. Dan Sheffer submitted his listing of Special Events covering the time period from December 2013 through June of 2014. Jeffrey Sibert in Human Resources has posted the listing to the AUAR web site. The expanded list includes the Civic Theater, the E. J. Thomas Hall Broadway Series and Forums, Akron Symphony, Coach House Theater, Weathervane Playhouse and the Actors Summit Theater. In addition there are general listings for outdoor activities sponsored by Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Metro Parks in Akron.

G. Scholarship. Nothing to report.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert indicated that she is in need of usable material. Informative reports would be desirable in such areas as the Soup and Chili Supper, obituaries, our Scholarship recipient with pictures if possible, a promotion note to get better participation on our spring Road Trip. In discussion on to whom we should send the Newsletter, we did not come up with a suitable decision.

4. Unfinished Business.

- A.** Bob Blankenship needs an assistant to continue his work as AUAR treasurer.
- B.** Cathy Edwards, Director of Human Resources, is retiring from that position. After a discussion it was decided to present her with a \$50 gift card for an appropriate restaurant, to be given to her at her retirement party on Dec.13 .
- C.** To begin our board meeting. Dr. Jennifer Stanley, Department of Psychology, made a brief presentation on her present research project. She is seeking participants of an age such as ourselves, retirees, to explore the broad subject of Emotions and Aging.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary.

**Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday. January 23, 2014.
Alumni Office Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**