

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, November 29, 2012
Alumni Conference Room, Stitzlein Center**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10.00 a.m. by President Bob Gandee, others present were Carl Lieberman, Bob Blankenship, Ed Lasher, Loren Hoch, Linda Sugarman, Pam Rupert, Velma Pomrenke, Marilyn Carrell, Neal Raber, Hans Zbinden, Diane and Tom Vukovich. Absent with notice were Barbara Banks, Jim Fee and Hank Nettling. The minutes of the October 25 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Treasurer** Bob Blankenship reported an available balance of \$8,205.41 on October 31, 2012. This compares with a balance of \$7,599.50 as of October 2011. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit. See attached financial summary.

3. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. The November Soup and Chili Supper at Goodyear Metro Park had about 55 retirees and guests in attendance. At the November 14 luncheon, 45 guests heard Dr. Stephen Brooks from the Bliss Institute analyze the results of the recent Presidential election. The Program of December 12 will be the Holiday Luncheon with its optional gift exchange. Looking ahead to Sunday, February 17, 2013, we will have our annual luncheon at the Woman's City Club, then enjoy another Agatha Christie play in the Coach House Theater. Tom Vukovich announced the luncheon speakers for spring, 2013.

January 9: Daniel Hovatter, UA student who served as our International Programs Ambassador.

February 13: Faculty member Dr. David Baker speaking on "UA's Psychology Archives: Unknown Treasures."

March 13: Terry Bowden, UA Head Football Coach.

April 10: Mark Price, staff writer with the Akron Beacon Journal.

Tom also hinted that the spring mystery trip will involve several Medina county locations And take place in late April.

B. Membership. Jim Fee reported that he received 10 recent renewals which bring our membership count to 295.

C. Political Action / Affiliates. In a brief commentary, Bob Gandee called attention to the difficulty which retiree groups such as AUAR face in discussions and interaction where our interests are at stake, in that we must deal with disparate groups such as the State Legislature, the STRS Board and the Ohio Retirement Study Council.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman made note of the fact that retiree dependents have received their information for 2013 benefits, which are essentially the same as the 2012 benefits. We do not know what will happen after 2013.

E. Faculty Senate. Neal Raber reports on the meeting of November 1, 2012.

The meeting began with the approval of a resolution brought forth by the Executive Committee. The resolution confirmed that Faculty Senate would not approve any changes in the General Education Program until all concerned faculty members had the opportunity to deliberate and approve the changes. President Proenza reported that the rapidly growing industry of "massive open online courses" or MOOC, where on-line courses taught by prestigious universities are available to hundreds of thousands of people around the world, will be making an impact on all universities. He urged the

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3. Committee Reports(cont.)

E. Faculty Senate(cont).

senators to consider alternatives for dealing with this disruption to the traditional college model. He conveyed a sense of urgency by pointing out that the train was leaving the station and we needed to get on board. In his comments, Provost Sherman indicated that the committee headed by President Gee would be meeting to determine the funding levels for the state institutions of higher learning and a report was expected by Thanksgiving

Next on the agenda was the approval of the name change of the Department of Geology And Environmental Science to the Department of Geosciences. The meeting continued with a report by Dr. Linda Subich on the proposed changes in the General Education Program. The current system requires 42 credits and the proposed one 34 to 43 credits, including a reduction in Humanities from 10 to 6. Students must complete a distribution requirement that includes five categories--- Diversity Domestic, Diversity International, Financial Literacy, Personal and Social Health, and Environmental Sustainability.

Assessment will be another important and controversial part of the program. All approved General Education courses will collect predetermined, course embedded learning artifacts. The General Education Revision Steering Committee suggests a four year cycle whereby each Learning Outcome is evaluated every four years. The General Education Revision Committee will be seeking input over the next several months and will have a final version ready for Faculty Senate by February 2013.

F. University and Community Service. No report.

G. Scholarship. No report. Questions from the floor clarified that Hank Nettling will report on Scholarship information, Newt Engle will report on Community Service.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert reported on topics and information which will be used for the next AUAR Newsletter.

Diane Vukovich prepared and distributed to all members present an up-to-date listing of our Executive Board Members and Support Personnel, dated July 2012 to 2013.

4. Unfinished Business. No report.

5. New Business. No report.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary

Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday January 24, 2013.