

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, January 24, 2013
Alumni Conference Room, Stitzlein Center**

- 1. President:** The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Bob Gandee. Others present were Loren Hoch, Ed Lasher, Bob Blankenship, Linda Sugarman, Carl Lieberman, Frank Tomas, June Burton, Hank Nettling, Velma Pomrenke, Diane and Tom Vukovich, Pam Rupert and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were Barbara Banks and Neal Raber. The minutes of the November 29, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

- 2. Treasurer:** Bob Blankenship reported for November and December. The available balance on November 30, 2012 was \$8,101.99 compared with \$7,952.78 a year earlier. Available balance on December 31, 2012 was \$8,230.76 compared with \$7,128.17 a year earlier. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit. See attached financial summaries.

- 3. Committee reports:**
 - A. Programs.** Tom Vukovich reported a change of speaker for the February 13, 2013 luncheon. Cathy Faye, Assistant Director of the University's Psychology Archives, will speak in place of Dr. David Baker. Tom is preparing for 2013 - 2014 luncheon dates and speakers; he welcomes suggestions. The April 26, 2013 Road Trip destinations are still in the planning stage,
 - B. Membership:** No report.
 - C. Political Action:** No report.
 - D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reporting. For Retiree Dependents who have their premiums deducted automatically, Summa Care deducted the amount twice, but then corrected and reversed the second charge. Linda Sugarman corresponded with a Retiree who was confused about how the University arrived at the amount of his remaining life insurance. She explained the Life Insurance reduction as she understood it and referred him to the University Benefits office. The retiree claimed he had never received notification of the reduction of his life insurance and the University does not seem to keep copies of those notifications.
 - E. Faculty Senate:** Neal Raber reports on the meeting of December 6, 2012. Chairman Rich called the meeting to order and he included in his opening remarks his concerns about the reliance on part time faculty at UA. He mentioned that almost 60 percent of the university faculty consists of part time faculty, which is a higher proportion than for any other Ohio public university and they teach more than 50% of the course sections.

Secondly, he pointed out that The University of Akron has fewer full time faculty per 1,000 full time equivalent students than any other Ohio public university except for Shawnee and Youngstown State.

In his remarks to the Senate, President Proenza reported on the Ohio Higher Education Funding Commission Report. Fifty percent of the funding formula focuses on course completion and student graduation rates rather than on enrollment. He attended the meeting in Denver of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities where there was a consensus for the urgency for higher education to explore and develop new content models as MOOCs (massive open online courses). They concurred at the meeting that it is in the best interest that these innovations be driven by universities and faculty rather than by third party vendors.

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E. Faculty Senate.(cont.)

The Provost said that the current work of the Academic Policy Committee dealing with the admission requirements of students to the university as well as the university wide efforts to help college ready students complete their degrees sooner, will hopefully result in a 60 percent or higher graduation rate. He reported that about seven million dollars of funding had been distributed to deans to support faculty hiring over this next year. This is in addition to the two million dollars in the Achieving Distinction Grant Initiative that really is a faculty hiring strategy.

Senator Sterns then inquired about the implementation of some kind of creative transition approach so that the faculty who are retiring are able to continue to contribute post retirement to fill positions. Provost Sherman responded that they have been having discussions with the general counsel's office with regard to the retire / rehire issue as it relates to the language in the contract, and something will be forthcoming.

F. University and Community Service. Scholarship.

Hank Nettling gave the following report. Dr. Dale Mugler, Dean of the University of Akron Honors College, invites the AUARretirees to participate as interviewers for the large Scholarship Friday set of interviews of potential Honors students The next big interview day is Friday afternoon, February 22. The interviews are held in and near the Student Union. In general, each interviewer is paired up with one other interviewer for the session. The Honors College works to connect students with faculty/staff/contract professionals in the major field of interest on the student application. Dr. Mugler is hoping for at least 350 students to be interviewed on February 22. The Honors College provides training to interviewers.

Those interested in participating as interviewers should contact Peggy Walchalk, Administrative Assistant Sr in the Honors College, at [peggy_1 @uakron.edu](mailto:peggy_1@uakron.edu) or 330-972-5247.

G.Newsletter: Pam Rupert reports that she and her team have completed preparation for the distribution of the Winter 2013 **AUAR NEWSLETTER.**

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Symposium: With Harvey Sterns having agreed to cover financially any deficit in expenses incurred by the Symposium, it was decided in discussion from the floor to ask him to contribute \$100.

B. Website: Frank Thomas commented that we need better coordination from those responsible for the different portions of the website. The Special Events page is out of date.

C. Tutor / Mentor Program: No report.

D. The next AUAR luncheon takes place on February 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the Martin Center. The Speaker will be Cathy Faye of the University's Psychology Department.

E. The AUAR Brunch and Theater Event takes place on Sunday, Feb. 17; The Brunch at the Woman's City Club, Drama at the Coach House Theater.

F. Bob Gandee called attention to the Memorial Luncheon to commemorate the 100th birthday of Dr. Louis Rodabaugh, our colleague from the Math Department, taking place February 2 at the Greentown United Methodist Church.

5. New Business:

A. June Burton called attention to the AUAR Christmas luncheons as we have known them. Taking note of the luncheons as they have been held the last several years, June commented that the current format has run its course and attendance has dwindled. Discussion from the floor agreed with this evaluation.

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5. New Business(cont.)

B. Honors College Student Selections: Hank Nettling reports that the challenge before us is that we are looking for volunteers to interview potential students for entry into the Honors College.

C. Thank You Mugs:

Tom Vukovich informed us that he has purchased a number of AUAR Mugs which will be used as "Thank You" gifts to our speakers. These mugs, with appropriate design and logos, were "close-out" mugs purchased at the Miracle Custom Awards and Gifts store on East Exchange Street.

D. Nomination Committee:

The Board took the first step in selecting nominees for a slate for new Board members by selecting Neal Raber to chair the nominating committee. This selection must be confirmed by Neal Raber because he was absent with notice from today's meeting.

E. Miscellaneous:

Tom Vukovich made a motion that our AUAR Board contribute \$100 to the International Student Program. The motion passed unanimously.

Loren Hoch suggested that contributions to the AUAR Scholarship Fund be made in the name of Don Rupert (Dr. Pam Rupert's husband), with such money going through the Department of Development. Discussion from the floor supported the idea that deceased retirees could be honored when contributions are made in their name by being mentioned, for example, appropriately in the AUAR Newsletter. Tom Vukovich made the motion: Resolved, that the AUAR Executive Board wishes to express its appreciation through Dr. Pam Rupert for Don's service and his many contributions. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary.

Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday, February 28, 2013.

Fonts:
Arial / 11
Copperplate Gothic Bold / 11
Script MT Bold / 14
Minutes (36)

