

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, December 3, 2015
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

1. **Opening Remarks.** The Board meeting was called to order by President Diane Vukovich at 10 A.M. Others present were Bob Blankenship, Stu Terrass, Frank Thomas, June Burton, Neal Raber, Bob Gandee, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Loren Hoch, Pam Rupert, Tom and Diane Vukovich and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were Cathy Edwards, Laura Moss and Rita Klein. The minutes of the October 22, 2015 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Treasurer.** Bob Blankenship reports a balance of \$6,949.50 as of Oct. 31, 2015. This compares with a balance of \$8,050.63 for October 31, 2014. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit.
3. **Committee Reports.**
 - A. **Programs.** Tom Vukovich thanked all those who contributed soup, chili, side dishes and dessert items at the Goodyear Metro Park supper held on Friday evening, November 6. Forty-seven folks attended. Tom made note of the very fine presentation that Frank Thomas gave us as a speaker at the luncheon on Nov. 11: The Last Days of the Korean War and Beyond. Frank's military friends joined us dressed in their uniforms. Elliott Callahan, the speaker for our next luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016, will speak on the history of chocolate. Our annual Brunch and Theater outing is on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016. Brunch is \$21.75; Theater \$18. The play is Murder on the Nile.
 - B. **Membership.** Frank Thomas reports that our active membership for November stands at 307 active members, 44 inactive, totaling 351.
 - C. **Political Action.** Bob Gandee attended the November 17 OCHER meeting in Columbus. He reported that OCHER members want to know how they can support our efforts 1) to protest changes that we believe are having a negative effect on the quality of education the University provides its students and 2) to advocate for positive changes. A lengthy discussion followed. President Vukovich will prepare a letter to OCHER President, Roger Anderson, suggesting that OCHER members can support our efforts by 1) sending letters of support to all those to whom AUAR has sent its letter expressing our concerns, 2) sending letters expressing their concerns to the *Akron Beacon Journal* and 3) sharing the information being sent with their colleagues and encouraging them to write letters of support.
 - D. **Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reports: Retiree dependents received their open enrollment information quite late. There were increases in premiums. Those increases were due to increases in medical insurance costs. Retiree dependents still pay 15% of the premium. There were no changes from those offered in previous years. Retiree dependents under age 65 may be affected adversely because Akron General Hospital and their Physicians are no longer in-network. Retiree dependents over age 65 that have Medicare as their primary provider are not affected by the fact that Akron General is no longer in-network.
 - E. **Faculty Senate.** Neal Rabor Nov. 5, 2015
Chair Rich began the meeting by telling us that President Scarborough and Povost Sherman were in Columbus and thus would not be in attendance. Unfortunately, neither was Senator Bouchard, so the meeting was, for the most part, routine until we got to New Business and Good and Welfare. Chair Rich mentioned that he was told by the President that the search for the new provost would begin in January and the one for the new dean of CAS would not start until the new provost was on board. The Senate approved the renaming of the Department of Public Service Technology in the College

of Applied Science and Technology to Department of Disaster Science and Emergency Services effective January 1, 2016.

Next a resolution was presented by the Computing & Communications Technologies Committee. The resolution recommended that paper teaching evaluations should be rapidly phased out and online evaluations should be broadly adopted. After an interminable amount of discussion, much of it dealing with the word rapidly, along with the introduction of several confusingly worded amendments, all of which should have been handled previously in committee, the resolution was referred back to committee.

The only action of real interest came during New Business, when Senator Coffey proposed that an ad hoc committee be formed to formulate and bring forth a resolution of no confidence in President Scaborough. It passed. During Good and Welfare, in response to a question as to why there is a search for a new provost, Chair Rich explained the situation. The BOT passed a new rule that allows rehire after retire to last only one year. Thus, the Provost's contract ends June 30, 2016.

Next, Senator Sterns spoke in response to a question earlier from Senator Sastry about oversight of centers and institutes. He began his remarks by informing us that he and Senator Gandee created the Institute for Lifespan Development and Gerontology 39 years ago. Sterns said that over the years, some institutes and centers have reported to the Provost's office and some to individual deans. In the past, there has been no organizational structure and each director has had their own deal. In terms of compensation, the magnitude of the differences is surprising, especially when you compare the salary of a recently appointed director, which is nearly a quarter of a million dollars a year, with the \$67 a month that Senator Sterns receives for directing the Lifespan Development and Gerontology Institute.

Senator Sastry then expressed his concern that no one is allowed to write contracts for incoming graduate students with University dollars starting with the coming Spring Semester. The issue is tuition reimbursement for committed projects. He wanted to know whether contractual obligations for current grants that have been submitted and received by the University are going to be honored. He continued by expressing serious concerns that the people making these decisions had not considered the implications on retention, subvention, and enrollment. Chair Rich replied that he would raise these questions with the appropriate administrators.

Finally Senator Lillie mentioned that there is a magazine called *The Spirit of Philanthropy* and in it is an article about LeBron James entitled *The King of Philanthropy is Just a Kid From Akron*. In one particular paragraph it says, "Regarding the students who are being mentored through The LeBron James Family Foundation, once they graduate from high school, LeBron students are guaranteed a full scholarship to The University of Akron." Senator Lillie continued saying, "James won't be paying the

tuition bills, which would add up to tens of thousands of dollars if all 1,000 students now in the Foundation's two educational programs were to attend. UA is picking up the tab. In exchange, James is starring in one commercial a year for five years for the university. I think that's about as succinct a summary of what is actually the case as I could imagine anywhere. Please be sure that everybody understands that, you know, Senator Lillie thinks LeBron James is a wonderful person, he has done wonderful things, but unlike what First Lady Michelle Obama said the other day, he has not paid for the scholarships. She said that openly to all the people who were there in the gymnasium. Some of us were there and we heard her say that. I think it's important to understand what the nature of this particular situation is. It has been extremely difficult for me and for others to get any details or any idea of how we're moving forward. You have heard me ask the President several times about this and the answers are still ones that seem to be in process. So I just wanted to make sure that people were aware of what, as far as we could tell, the facts are, and let's hope that we can take advantage of all of the support from The LeBron James Family Foundation and be there for folks from Akron and surrounding areas, but let's do it on the basis of truth and what actually is happening, not on the basis of marketing and innuendo." We adjourned at 4:17 pm.

F. University and Community Service. Website. Dan Sheffer reported that everything is up to date. Information is coming together for the January to June period.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported that the assets of our AUAR Student Scholarship Fund stand at \$60,511 as of September 30, 2015. Christine Curry, Director of Development and Stewardship/Donor Services reported to Carl that 12 gifts were received during the period October 1 to November 30. These amounted to \$34,392. Of the just mentioned sum, one unnamed donor contributed \$32,000. Carl will request a printout from Christine Curry verifying this amount.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert notes that she appreciates the information coming to her. She is completing the current Winter Edition.

4. Unfinished Business. President Diane Vukovich called attention to an intended ad for the *Akron Beacon Journal*. Jane Bond, former University of Akron Board of Trustees member, prepared this ad. The ad is an open letter to the Trustees and Administration. Alumni, donors and friends of The University of Akron are being asked to support this effort by signing the ad. It was moved that we send this ad via email to all members of AUAR requesting their signatures. The motion passed. Many board members just signed the printed copies that Diane distributed and returned them to her after the meeting.

5. New Business. President Vukovich appointed the Nominating Committee for 2016. The Nominating Committee is composed of the three members at large, who are not up for reelection. Therefore the committee members are Ed Lasher, Loren Hoch and Laura Moss. Neal Raber will chair the January 28, 2016 board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary.
Next Executive Board Meeting is January 28, 2016
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium.

Minutes (64)