

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, February 25, 2016
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

1. Opening Remarks. The Board meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Diane Vukovich. Others present were Bob Blankenship, Stu Terrass, Cathy Edwards, June Burton, Dan Sheffer, Ed Lasher, Linda Sugarman, Rita Klein, Tom and Diane Vukovich and Hans Zbinden. Attending as a guest was Bill Beyer. Absent with notice were Bob Gandee, Loren Hoch, Carl Lieberman, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Frank Thomas, Velma Pomrenke and Laura Moss. The minutes of the January 28, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

2. Treasurer Bob Blankenship reports a balance of \$6,254.67 as of January 31, 2016. This compares with a balance of \$7,104.75 for January, 2015. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit.

3. Committee Reports.

A. Programs. Tom Vukovich reported on upcoming events:

On March 9. The Luncheon speaker will be Dr. Michele Campbell telling us of the relationship established between The University of Akron College of Education and the Le Bron James Family Foundation.

On April 13. The Luncheon speaker will be Mandy Altimus Pond of the Massillon Public Library speaking on the topic "Titanic and the End of the Edwardian Era." She requests a donation of \$50 to the Massillon Library. This request was put into the form of a motion which was seconded and passed.

Our annual Road Trip will be to Warren, Ohio on April 22. The wide itinerary begins with historic homes and finishes with a visit to the Country Porch Winery and appropriate tastings.

Our annual Lobster and Suds Party: Friday, May 20.

B. Membership.

Rita Klein reports that our active membership for February 2016 stands at 315 active members and 40 inactive.

C. Political Action. No report.

D. Benefits:

Linda Sugarman reports the following; The most recent STRS board news was disheartening. The projected life of the health care fund has decreased significantly. The life of the health care fund has dropped to 19 years. Since there is no employer contribution to the health care fund, the balance of the fund has dropped. Among the changes that will be made are:

- Increasing some co-pays and some deductibles.
- Changing the plan of the non-Medicare enrollees who live outside of Ohio.
- Limiting the retail pharmacies that are in the Network.

D. Benefits (cont.).

Other items under consideration are:

- Discontinue and phasing out the Medicare reimbursement program.
- Reducing the STRS subsidy from the present 2.1 % to 1.9 % for non Medicare enrollees.
- Adding \$50 surcharge to enrollees who have Medicare Part B-only Coverage.
- Eliminate the option of sponsored dependents

E. Faculty Senate. Neal Raber, February 3rd

Chair Rich began by mentioning that in an op-ed piece that morning in the ABJ, President Scarborough had said that UA would provide an Ivy League education to its students. He went on to say that 69 searches for faculty were proceeding, with at least 45 non-tenure track. He said that the quality of Ivy League schools comes from tenure track faculty.

President Scarborough presented to each member of Faculty Senate a glossy 22 page report of his accomplishments over the last two years. It included an array of color photographs of his leadership team, which within a few days was inaccurate, because Lee Gill, Chief Diversity Officer, would be leaving for Clemson. The handout included colorful charts and ended with a quote of Theodore Roosevelt. Scarborough must see himself as the quote states, *if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.*

During the question and answer period, he had to explain why he hired a consultant firm to work with Graduate Council. He answered by saying the consultants would be the experts who would facilitate determining what assistantships and fee waivers should be eliminated. When Senator Sastry said that the web site of the consultant firm indicated that they had more experience with undergraduates, President Scarborough brusquely replied that the firm had been around for 30 years and was selected by the Graduate School. In response to a question about confirmed admissions being down 37%, he explained that every college is unique in enrollment and, for example, the College of Education finds masters enrollment down, because teachers no longer have incentives to get advanced degrees. He continued by saying that liberal arts colleges are in financial trouble and the enrollment decrease reflects a trend in the Midwest. He couldn't answer any questions about negotiations with private companies to purchase the campuses of ITT Technologies, because he had signed a non-disclosure agreement. As usual, he left when the questions stopped.

Interim Senior Vice President and Provost Ramsier next addressed the Senate. He started by saying that there would be full funding of graduate assistantships next year

E. Faculty Senate(cont.)

and 59% of professional development leaves were funded. He stated that he would be interviewing each applicant for the advertised tenure track positions. The Law School had filled three such positions and Ramsier said that he was impressed with the three Business College candidates he had interviewed. He also reported that the Board had formed search committees for the permanent provost and for the general counsel positions. He said that he would consider applying for the position of provost after seeing the ad.

Ramsier reported that the consultants hired by the Board had made suggestions for changes in the University Council bylaws and he hoped that the approval process would come to an end at the June Board meeting. A long discussion followed about promised startup funds for faculty and about grant funds. He said that all unexpended startup funds that were promised in offer letters, including those from as far back as FY02, have been identified. This totals slightly over \$15M. The new budgeting process requires that we have a plan to spend these funds, which will be made available over three fiscal years - FY16, FY17, and FY18. Faculty should use their startup funds in each year of this three-year period so that the backlog of startup funding can finally be cleared, and we can continue to provide competitive, fully budgeted start-up offers for future faculty hires. As to IDC funds, which are indirect grant money funds held by the University, the policy is being developed. He said that the problem is that the monies are not in a savings account and really are not available, because they were spent for other purposes. He said that over the last two years, 100 visiting professors were hired, and the funds to pay them had never been budgeted.

The time was approaching 4:30 and everyone was anxiously waiting for the no-confidence vote. However, Senator Saliga had yet to give a report of the Ad hoc Committee of Chairs of the General Education Learning Outcome Committees. Finally, at about 4:45, Senator Coffey brought forth the resolution of no confidence in President Scarborough. There was some discussion. Senator Hausnecht stated that he was the one dissenting vote on the Ad Hoc Committee that formulated the resolution. He said that he thought Scarborough had only made two mistakes – the rebranding and the ending of the baseball team. He went on to say that he personally did not care if AKRON appeared on the uniforms of the sports teams and the band. He also continued by implying that Scarborough was a scapegoat for the Board. Senator Coffey then gave an impassioned address to the Faculty Senate imploring them to vote yes on the no confidence vote. Senator Lillie asked that we consider a secret ballot, but Chair Rich said that the bylaws of Faculty Senate state that even with such a vote, if only one senator asks for a roll call vote, there must be one. When it was time to vote, Senator Matejkovic called for a roll call vote; however, prior to starting the vote, Senator Sarah Morath took the floor to explain that though she did not agree

E. Faculty Senate(cont.)

with her vote of no, she had to represent the law faculty who came to her. Most of them told her to vote no, and she said that because she was not tenured, she would have to follow their wishes The roll call vote proceeded. I listened as every vote was *yes!* Even Senator Hausknecht voted *yes!*

The final vote was 50 – 2 in favor of no confidence with Senator Matejkovic being the other *no* vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

F. University and Community Service / Website. Dan Sheffer reports that his sources are keeping the Website up to date and current.

G. Scholarship. No report.

H. Newsletter. No report.

4. Unfinished Business. Nominations Committee Report.

The Nominations Committee recommends the following slate of candidates to serve as officers or representatives of the Association of the University of Akron Retirees, beginning July 1, 2016.

- Vice President Dan Sheffer
- Treasurer Robert Blankenship
- Recording Secretary Rita Klein
- Corresponding Secretary Martha Vye
- Public Relations Officer Pamela Rupert

Members at Large of the Executive Board (3 to be elected.)

- Stuart Terrass
- John Heminger
- Cathy Edwards

Faculty Senate Representatives (2 to be elected)

- Robert Gandee
- Ali Hajjafar

Submitted by Edward Lasher.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Immediately following the business meeting, the board met with a representative from the Akron Association of University Professors (AAUP) and Sandy McNair, the AAUP Attorney. They updated us on the status of the University of Akron administration’s plan to eliminate retiree dependent health care\ coverage

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary
**The Next Executive Board Meeting is March 24, 2016 at
The Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**