

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, March 26, 2015
Alumni Office Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

1. **Opening Remarks:** The meeting was called to order by President June Burton at 10 a.m. Others present were Bob Blankenship, Bob Gandee, Neal Raber, Cathy Edwards, Dan Sheffer, Carl Lieberman. Linda Sugarman, Ed Lasher, Rita Klein, Diane and Tom Vukovich, Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice was Frank Thomas. The minutes of the February 26, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

2. **Treasurer:** Bob Blankenship reported an available balance of \$6,736.87 as of February 28, 2015. This compares with a balance of \$6,137. as of February 28, 2014.

3. **Committee Reports.**

Programs: Diane Vukovich made note that Margery Koosed's presentation at the March 11 luncheon was well received. She described in word and picture notable flower gardens in England and France. At the April 8 luncheon Tom and Diane Vukovich will describe their trip to Russia in August, 2014. Our annual AUAR Road Trip will be on Friday, April 24. We travel with the theme of "A Day in the Cleveland Area." Invitations have gone out; the tour is limited to 40 persons.

B. Membership. Rita Klein reported that the mailing to new retirees informing them of our Association and related activities is now in distribution.

C. Political Action. On March 17 Bob Gandee attended a meeting of the Ohio Retirement Study Council (ORSC) at which many issues and information came under discussion. Examples: 1) Potential Changes: To remove the authority for the STRS Board to issue a 13th check. To discourage re-employment with the same employer in the same position. 2) Representatives from STRS and others discussed future mitigating rates for those who chose to participate in alternative retirement plans. 3) State and local pension payments made to Ohio residents supported a total of \$3 billion in revenue to Federal, state and local governments.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman informed us that the University of Akron email is migrating to a cloud based system. For those using the email on their desktops or laptops no updates will be needed. For those using mobile devices, instructions for the transition are available.

There may be an updating of the AUAR handbook. Linda inquired of Sarah Kelly whether they have new handouts or booklets that they give to employees on retirement. Mrs. Kelly answered that the University does not have a comprehensive retiree handout.

There has been a review of the revised board of trustees section on Benefits and Privileges of retired faculty (Revised 2-1-2015) there doesn't seem to be information on term life insurance for those who are already retired. Sarah Kelly will be contacted for clarification.

E. Faculty Senate Meeting: March 5, 2015

Chair Rich began the meeting reporting that budget hearings were going on and the allocations for Graduate Assistants for the next school year were sent out and were funded at levels of 100% and 90% of last year's allocations. The programs that were

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allocated 90% may have their allocations raised before long, but such funding at such a late date makes it difficult to get decent graduate assistants. He reported that the good news is that graduate assistant allocations for the 2016 -2017 year will be part of the forthcoming budget, and thus departments will know their funding for Graduate Assistants one year in advance. This will be a first!

President Scarborough reported that the College Strategic Plans were finalized with unanimous faculty support in the Colleges of Business, the College of Health Professions, and the CAST. He explained that some colleges are more homogeneous and the planning process goes quickly while others like CAS are more diverse. He also said that his planning and budgeting process requires a learning process for the leadership in some colleges College cultures are different. Some college faculties are more receptive to a prescriptive approach to their plans whereas other faculties are more desirous to have a hands on approach.

He also reported on the visit of the Higher Learning Commission. The members were disappointed at the turnout at some sessions. There also was an uncomfortable exchange between a member of the HLC and a Board of Trustees member when it came to the question of faculty representation on the Board. Remember, one of reasons for this return visit was the concerns over Shared Governance. He expects a draft of their report in a month, but the final report will not be produced until July.

In his remarks, Provost Sherman explained that decisions to close the university to weather are made between midnight and 4:00 am in consultation with the grounds crew and also taking into consideration the condition of the roads used getting to the university. Surprisingly, there were no questions for the Provost!

A motion to remove the requirements of a GPA of 3.0 and an ACT score of 21 and an SAT score of 980 for a new student to be a Direct Admit into a program was put forth by Associate Provost Ramsier for the Academic Policies Committee. Instead of these requirements, such students must be determined to be *College Ready* by a formula. To be a Direct Admit the formula would have to predict that their GPA would be above 2.5 after one year. Provost Ramsier explained that some 1300 applicants to the university had received acceptance letters with a phrase in the letter saying that they had been admitted to UA *intending* to major in a specific area. These students had not met all of the criteria even though they were considered *College Ready* by the formula. Parents were calling! Because of the competition for good students, Ramsier wanted to remove the word *intending* from the letters, but could only do so if the motion passed. It passed without dissent.

Next, there was a discussion about the funds allocated for Graduate Assistants.

Associate Provost Ramsier had sent out at least two memos indicating what programs would receive funds. It started with only doctoral programs, then included master

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research programs, and finally included masters programs where Graduate Assistants teach courses. Ramsier is serving as Interim Dean of the Graduate School, and he explained to the Senators that in the past some departments were using Graduate Assistants to do administrative work. He said that his philosophy for funding would be "Trust and verify!" Ramsier indicated that he had discovered that the Graduate School had allocated Diversity Funds to students who were not on the books as being in a graduate program.

he last motion on the agenda came from the Part Time Faculty Committee. After a great deal of discussion and a divided vote for approval, the Senate passed a motion to recommend to the President that salaries of part time faculty be reviewed annually and increased every two years. Opposition arguments pointed out that this might not go over too well with the Board! The meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

F. Website. Dan Sheffer reported that monthly up-dating of special events is under way for inclusion on our Website.

G. AUAR Scholarships. Diane Vukovich, as our President Elect, will appoint a committee to select the scholarship recipients. Also to be appointed is our representative to OCHER.

H. Newsletter. No report

4. Unfinished business. Spring Elections. Neal Raber recommended for nomination this tentative slate to be presented to the membership to serve as officers or representatives of AUAR, beginning July 1, 2015.

President Elect: Neal Raber

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

Loren Hoch, Ed Lasher, Laura Moss.

5. New Business. At the coming Founders Day luncheon, Diane Vukovich will be speaking on behalf of AUAR, to let the new retirees know of our group and our activities. The Board meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary.

**Next Executive Board Meeting is April 23, 2015.
Alumni Office Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium.**