

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, September 26, 2013.  
Alumni Conference Room, Stitzlein Center**

1.; **Opening Remarks:** The meeting was called to order by President Elect Diane Vukovich at 10 a.m. Others present were Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas, Hank Nettling, Ed Lasher, Neal Raber, Bob Gandee, Pam Rupert, Tom and Diane Vukovich, and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were June Burton, Bob Blankenship, Loren Hoch, Barbara Banks, Carl Lieberman and Velma Pomrenke. The minutes of the August 22, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

2.**Treasurer** Bob Blankenship was not present to give his report. Tom Vukovich reported an available balance of \$7,899.80 as of July 1, 2013.

**3. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs.**

- a) Tom and Diane Vukovich will present the next luncheon program on October 9: "Whale Watching in the Sea of Cortez.". Tom reported on speakers for the next year:
- b) January 8, 2014; Suzi Graham, associated with the Downtown Akron Partnership.
- c) February 12, 2014; Ellet High School faculty retiree John Gurnish, a Civil War buff, will speak on Summit County during the Civil War.
- d) Date uncertain: Georjette Thomas will speak on pets for the home.

**B. Membership.** Frank Thomas reports that we have 344 members, of whom 202 are active (paid) and 142 inactive (have not paid). Seventeen of the Active are new members.

**C. Political Action.** Hank Nettling reported that the September 24 OCHER meeting was not really significant. A statistic of interest is that STRS retirement applications for this calendar year thus far are 6,377.

**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported that thanks to Neal Raber and an anonymous source, we know that the contract between the Akron Chapter of AAUP and the University of Akron contained a clause that continued the Retiree Dependent Benefits. Retiree dependents pay \$15 of the cost of the premiums and receive essentially the same benefits that current employees receive.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Meeting of September 5, 2013. Neal Raber reporting that Chairman Rich began by informing the senators that two resolutions passed in the spring were presented to President Proenza. The first one was a resolution to rescind administrative changes in faculty workload until the administrators followed the regulations of the Board. The second one opposed the restrictions placed on the number of hours taught by part-time faculty. He rejected both of them!

Chair Rich continued by mentioning that the Higher Learning Commission reaccredited UA for ten more years, but planned a revisit to deal with the concerns about shared governance and the assessment of General Education outcomes.

President Proenza began his remarks by informing the senators that the Trustees Search Committee would be meeting on Sept. 16 for the first time to begin the process of selecting the next president.

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, September 26, 2013.  
Alumni Conference Room, Stitzlein Center**

**E. Faculty Senate.(cont.)**

He went on by pointing out that the Keck Foundation awarded a prestigious \$1 million grant to the University of Akron polymer engineering professors to study how glass is formed. He also pointed out the University of Akron offers the best return on investment for its students of any public university in Northeast Ohio, according to Affordable Colleges Online.

Provost Sherman then addressed the Senate. There were 93 new faculty hired, 37 of whom were tenure-track. Enrollment was down 6.9% and student credit hours were down 7.4%. He said the Board wanted a balanced budget report in October. That meant an 8% reduction in unit budgets was to be forthcoming. Provost Sherman waited until the end of his comments to deal with the controversial issue of University Council. He emphatically pointed out that the proposal to effectively do away with the UC meetings was not his proposal, but instead he had reported it on behalf of the Steering Committee of University Council. The business of Faculty Senate then proceeded calmly as elections were held. Elected to new terms were Chairman Bill Rich, Vice Chairman John Miller, Secretary Frank Bove, Executive Committee members Harvey Sterns and Tim Lillie. During the discussion that followed, it was discovered the Provost Sherman had gone to the Steering Committee of UC the day before this meeting of Faculty Senate to ask for their support of his proposal.

The meeting ended after the Senate passed the following resolution:

*"Resolved, That the Faculty Senate strongly objects to the amendments to the bylaws of the University Council proposed in the August 13th University Council meeting, believing that those amendments would effectively eliminate the University Council as a deliberative body and, with it, the potential for genuine shared governance on those matters within the purview of the University Council; and that the adoption and implementation of the proposed amendments would constitute a breach of faith with the Faculty Senate, which initially proposed the creation of a university council and participated in good faith in the deliberations and negotiations over its creation."* The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

**F. University and Community Service.** No report.

**G. Scholarship.** Hank Nettling reports that the Scholarship Committee recommends that we give the AUAR award to Nursing student Heidi Sutherland who is in her 5th year of studies. The award is in the amount of \$3,000. Hank made the motion, *"Resolved, that we award the AUAR Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000 to Nursing student Heidi Sutherland. In addition, the balance in the award account of \$2,531.60 is to be returned to the principal for additional growth of the fund."* This motion passed by unanimous vote.

**H. Newsletter.** No report.

**4. Unfinished Business.** None.

**5. New Business.** None.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m

*Hans Zbinden,* Recording Secretary.

**Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday, October 24, 2013.**

**New Location: Alumni Office Conference Room, # 203 on the second floor of InfoCision Stadium.**