

**Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium  
The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, March 27, 2014**

**Opening Remarks:**

Before the meeting opened we heard from Cassandra Verardi who is associated with the Office of Student Success and the Alumni Association. Cassi informed us about the Roo Crew: a way for alumni to stay connected by recruiting potential students to the University, providing opportunities for student success, and by assisting with job preparation and placement for UA graduates.

1. **President:**The meeting was called to order by President June Burton at 10:15 a.m. Others present were Bob Blankenship, Velma Pomrenke, Bob Gandee, Barbara Banks, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Loren Hoch, Linda Sugarman, Ed Lasher, Diane and Tom Vukovich, Carl Lieberman and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice was Frank Thomas. Minutes of the February 27 meeting were approved as written.
  
2. **Treasurer:** Bob Blankenship reported an available balance of \$6,137.72 as of February 28, 2014. This compares with a balance of \$7,195.92 for February 28, 2013. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit. It was called to our attention that our monthly luncheon on March 12 took place on a bitterly cold day with heavy snow. Twentyeight members signed up to attend; there were 11 no-shows which caused a \$100 loss. It was decided to write a gentle note to the no-shows saying that we would appreciate receiving a contribution to cover the expenses of the food.
  
3. **Committee Reports.**
  - A. **Programs.**
    - a) Our April 9 luncheon will have Prof. Mel Vye as speaker.
    - b) Tom Vukovich highlighted our AUAR Road Trip on Friday, April 25: A Day in N E Portage County. Items of great interest in Ravenna (Historical Society Museum), lunch at Hiram College, chocolate and candy shop in Burton, Unique shops in Middlefield, Halliday's Winery at Lake Milton.
    - c) Bob Gandee made the motion to plan a wine tasting as a fund raiser, to be held this fall. The motion passed.
    - d) Looking ahead for a possible new summer event, Tom is exploring a dinner and show format, perhaps at the Rabbit Run Winery in Madison, Ohio.

**B. Membership.** No report.

**C. Political Action.** No report.

**D. Benefits:** Linda Sugarman, reporting. The University of Akron offers two Retiree Dependent health plans. One plan is for retiree dependents under the age of 65 and appears to be identical to one of the plans offered for active employees. The other plan is for Retiree Dependents over the age of 65 who are also covered by Medicare. The University of Akron Benefits Office has stated that Retiree Dependents who are under Medicare will be covered as long as they go to a provider who accepts Medicare. If you are a Retiree Dependent under Medicare and call Apex with a question and the answer

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**D. Benefits(cont.):**

doesn't seem right to you, call the University Benefits Office and they will find out the correct answer for you.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Neal Raber reporting on the meeting of March 6, 2014.

In his opening remarks, Chair Rich criticized the administration for the budget cuts to the academic units. He mentioned that the budget, including the specific cuts for each of the colleges, was developed by a leadership team that included no academicians. Academic units collectively are being cut by \$9.1 million which is a 6.7 % decrease in their budgets. Nonacademic units collectively are being cut \$5.7 million, which is a 6.2% decrease in their budgets. He went on to point out that the Athletics Department costs the university \$2 to \$3 million more in expenditures than it generates in revenue.

In his remarks, President Proenza asked that the Faculty Senate provide its recommendations on the Criminal Justice Programs and the role of Summit College by the May meeting.

Provost Sherman said that they are anticipating a \$15 million dollar gap. He Also pointed out that we are 3,000 applications ahead at this time compared with last year and pretty much even with confirmed admitted students. Next the Senate passed a motion to increase the GPA requirement for a student semester by semester to obtain Dean's List status from 3.25 to 3.50, and to add a President's List for students who obtain a 4.0 in any given semester. Then the Senate approved the purchase by the University of a license for WebX, a web conferencing service, at a cost of \$70,000 in addition to maintaining the current licensing the University has for Blackboard Collaborate at \$19,000. The Senate passed a motion recommending the University adopt Turning Technologies as the official clicker system for the University of Akron. The last order of business was the motion put forth by the Athletics Committee to recommend joining the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics with the condition that we re-evaluate our membership after a two year period and the UA representative be elected by Faculty Senate. It passed unanimously. During Good and Welfare, Senator Turner Anderson made everyone aware that the funding of Athletics at about \$2 or \$3 million is out of the general fund. However, he said, if we look at the general fees incurred on students overall, a conservative estimate is probably closer to \$18 to \$23 million dollars.

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

**G.Scholarship.** No report.

**H.Newsletter.** No report.

4. **Unfinished Business.** Ed Lasher distributed copies of the Official Notice of Nominations of 2014. Ed clarified that we are retaining the Office of Vice President in our AUAR Constitution; Dan Sheffer is the candidate. In further discussion it was decided to enlarge the Program committee by adding two additional members, these being Dan

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**Unfinished Business(cont:)**

Sheffer and Neal Raber. Ed also called attention to two new names on our Notice of Nominations: Rita Klein for the position of Corresponding Secretary, Cathy Edwards as

Member at Large of the Executive Board.

5. **New Business.** Please note the following new address: Velma Pomrenke, 1148 West Market Street, Apt 216, Akron, OH 44313. [Same phone: 330-864-6866].

The Board meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

*Hans Zbinden*, recording secretary

Next Executive Board Meeting, April 24, 2014  
Alumni Office Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium.