

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

**1. Opening Remarks:**

The meeting was called to order by President June Burton at 10 am. Others present were Bob Blankenship, Loren Hoch, Carl Lieberman, Velma Pomrenke, Barbara Banks, Neal Raber, Hank Nettling, Pam Rupert, Can Sheffer, Frank Thomas, Ed Lasher, Diane and Tom Vukovich. Absent with notice were Hans Zbinden and Linda Sugarman. The minutes of the April 24th meeting were approved as written.

**2. Treasurer**

Bob Blankenship reported a balance of \$6109.58 compared to \$6155.94 a year ago.

**3. Committee Reports:**

**Program:** Tom and Diane Vukovich: The annual lobster and suds party May 16th, 2014 at 4:30. St Sebastian, Zwisler Hall. NE Ohio day trip April 28th, 2014.

**Membership:** Frank Thomas reported that we have 293 active members. and that he had sent 47 e-mails to the December 2013 new retirees

**Political Action:** no report

**Benefits:** no report

**Faculty Senate:** Neal Raber on the faculty senate meeting of April 3, 2014

The major item for this meeting was the report of the Academic Policies Committee (APC) on the Provost's proposed suspension of 55 academic programs. Chair Rich made the following statements about the proposed suspensions: "It is regrettable that the Administration, after allowing this academic program review process to stall in recent years, suddenly decided to propose the suspension of 55 programs two months ago, and to insist that this decision be carried out by the end of the semester. Because they waited so late in the academic year, it was necessary to inform students applying for admissions to these programs that they were under consideration for suspension. In some instances it had come to my attention that students were wrongly told that these programs and already been suspended. As a result, some students chose to attend college elsewhere while others chose to enroll in other programs. APC is recommending against suspension of 13 of the 55 programs on the Provost's list. If the Senate adopts these recommendations, and if the President and Board concur in them, enrollment in these programs is likely to suffer just because students were discouraged from enrolling. Any further evaluation of these programs in the next few years must be cognizant of the effects of this mismanagement of the academic program review process. The damage to the university caused by the proposal to suspend the 55 programs was compounded by the fact the administration courted publicity for its proposal. The Provost appeared on Fox News Channel 8 in Cleveland touting the elimination of these programs. I cannot fathom how anyone could have thought this publicity would have been helpful to the university." He continued with remarks about the 2015 budget cuts. "The administration needs to either show that its proposed cuts to the budgets of the academic units are justified in this way or

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**Faculty Senate(cont.):**

reduce those cuts to levels at which they are justified. If this is not done by the next Faculty Senate meeting, which is the last of the academic year, it would be difficult for the faculty to sustain confidence in the administration's ability to manage the finances of the university while preserving its ability to perform its core academic functions."

Provost Sherman reported that two university students in Biomedical Engineering had received Goldwater Scholarships and another student in Biomedical Engineering had received an honorable mention .

There was discussion to accept the report of the Academic Policies Committee.

When amendments were put forth to change particular recommendations, they were voted down and the APC recommendations were passed unanimously.

At the April 18th meeting of the athletics committee, Athletics Director Tom Wistrill reported on how academics are financed at UA. 76% of the 25 million budget, or 19 million, comes from student fees and the general fund. The remaining 24% is generated by the Athletic Department. Of the 19 million, 7 million goes for scholarships and 1.2 million dollars are spent on campus for such things as food and utilities. So athletics costs the university approximately 11 million. InfoCision Stadium is a separate budget item because athletics is only part of its operation. The budget of the athletic department has been cut substantially over the last few years and the current proposed cuts can only lead to cutting staff and eliminating sports teams.

**University and Community events:** No report

**Scholarships:** Balance is \$59,770.74 toward a goal of \$100,000.

**Newsletter:** Pam Rupert reported that the next newsletter will be coming out at the end of August.

4. **Election results:** Ed Lasher gave the election results. The following are the elected officers of AUAR for 2014: Vice President: Dan Sheffer, Treasurer: Robert Blankenship, Recording Secretary: Hans Zbinden, Corresponding Secretary: Rita Klein, Public Relations Officer: Pamela Rupert, Members at Large of the Executive Board: Pamela Rupert, Neal Raber, Cathy Edwards, Faculty Senate Representatives: Robert Gandee and Neal Raber.

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.:

**Loren Hoch, Recording Secretary Pro Tempore.**

**Our Next Executive Board Meeting is at 10:00 A.M. May 22, 2014**