

The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, December 4, 2014
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, Frank Thomas, Carl Lieberman, Neal Raber, Hank Nettling, Bob Gandee, Dan Sheffer, Pam Rupert, Loren Hoch, Linda Sugarman, Ed Lasher, Diane and Tom Vukovich, Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were Rita Klein, Kathy Edwards, Velma Pomrenke. The minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Treasurer Bob** Blankenship reported an available balance of \$8,050.63 on October 31, 2014. This compares with a balance of \$7,280.18 on October 31, 2013. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit.
3. **Committee reports.**
 - A. **Programs.** Dan Sheffer gave a financial summary of the successful Wine Tasting Fund raiser held in Kent on November 13, 2014. Income from 27 attendees, donations from non-attendees and proceeds from the raffle came to \$766. Expenses were \$313. The balance of \$453 is for our AUAR Scholarship fund. Neal Raber reported on his plans for a retiree bus trip to Cleveland, scheduled for April 24, 2015. The main destination will be the Western Reserve Historical Society Museum. The trip will include a lunch and visit to a candy shop.
 - B. **Membership.** Frank Thomas distributed a listing of 54 university retirees with names and current addresses that can be considered inactive with respect to AUAR. He requested that board members should look over this list and if you know any of the inactive members please try to contact them. As of December 1, 2014, there are 360 members on the file of which 306 are active members. Twenty are new this year and 54 inactive. All 2012-2013 non paid members will be purged on January 1, 2015. He also reported that \$2058.00 had been collected from membership renewals for the Scholarship Fund from May 1 through Dec 1 of this year.
 - C. **Political Action.** No Report
 - D. **Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported that the web site related to retirees dependents insurance benefits appears to be not accessible. She will check with the Benefits office in January.
 - E. **Faculty Senate. FACULTY SENATE MEETING Nov. 6, 2014** In his opening remarks, Chair Bill Rich announced that in response to the resolution passed by the Faculty Senate last May, the maximum teaching load for part time faculty members would be increased from eight to nine hours per semester starting the Spring 2015 semester. Part time faculty members teaching more than four credits per semester will, however, continue to be required to report the number of hours they work each week and will not be permitted to average more than 29 clock hours per week.

President Scarborough began his remarks by circulating two documents – one dealing with the changes of the makeup of faculty across the nation from tenure track to non-tenure track over the last thirty years and a second one outlining his first year timeline. Currently, he is meeting with college faculties to update each college's strategic plan. After meeting in 3 days with the representatives of 14 departments with 23 critical faculty hiring needs, he made the decision to authorize the hiring of two of the tenure track positions and nine non-tenure track positions.

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E. Faculty Senate. (cont.)

He reported, "My reading of Vision 2020 is that it is much like many college and university strategic plans. It is very aspirational in nature. In my opinion that's why starting with the colleges and getting to the details and working with what's unique and what each college aspires is a better way to build a strategic plan. What a good president does is not dictate a plan. He organizes a process to determine a plan that can get a preponderance of people excited about moving forward, and then the President runs in front of that. So we have to get the most out of the limited resources that we have. And the last thing that I would say is, you know, I'd like to be the university that first owns Northeast Ohio. I would like to be the clear, distinguished university of Northeast Ohio. Not only to people in Akron, but to people in the rest of the State of Ohio." e continued, "The College of Graduate Studies should in my opinion have always been under the academic function of the university. so I am correcting an obvious, in my opinion, kind of shortcoming in the previous structure

President Scarabough explained the open positions at the administrative level. The first one is the person that runs all of the IT for the university. Position two is the person that leads the advancement, the fundraising, the governmental relations, and the enrollment management function. He continued with explaining that position 3 is The VP for Research. The fourth position is the Honors College Dean. Finally, the fifth position is Dean of CAST (College of Applied Sciences and Technology). In his remarks, Provost Sherman mentioned the Higher Learning Commission report is being prepared in anticipation of the visit in February, 2015 and the committees have been formed to move ahead with General Education reform. There were no questions for the Provost and after approving curriculum changes, the Senate adjourned at 4:00 pm!!

Communication Committee

We learned at the Communication Committee meeting that UA has hired a firm to evaluate the crisis management protocol at the university.

F. Community Service. No report.

G. Scholarship. Hank Nettling reported on the two new recipients who will receive our AUAR scholarship for the 2014 -2015 academic year. 1) Emily Vickers, a senior majoring in Speech-Language Pathology. 2) John Wirth, studying Mechanical Technology. The scholarship currently provides \$750 per person per semester. Hank added that the present value of the fund is \$63,926.

H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert requested that all reports for the Newsletter be in her hands before Christmas. The Newsletter is planned to be in print by the first week in January, 2015.

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Hans Zbinden, recording secretary

Next Executive Board Meeting is Thursday January 22, 2015.

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Minutes (54)