

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)**  
**Executive Board Meeting, April 25, 2013**  
**Alumni Conference Room, Stitzlein Center**

1. **Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Bob Gandee. Others Present were Bob Blankenship, Ed Lasher, Hank Nettling, Loren Hoch, Carl Lieberman, June Burton, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas, Pam Rupert, Marilyn Carrell, Barbara Banks, Neal Raber, Newt Engle, Hans Zbinden, Diane and Tom Vukovich. The minutes of the March 28, 2013 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Treasurer** Bob Blankenship reported an available balance of \$6,155.04 as of March 31, 2013. This compares with a balance of \$6,576.98 as of March 31, 2012. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit. See attached financial summary.
3. **Committee reports.**
  - A. **Programs.**
    - a) Tom Vukovich reported that at our first AUAR luncheon for the new season (September 11, 2013), our speaker will be Don Baker, editor of Akron Life magazine. Increases in expenses at the Martin Center mean that luncheons will cost \$11.
    - b) Twentyfive guests will be our bus-mates for the Road Trip on April 26. Tom reports that with this low attendance we may be about \$240 short of meeting expenses.
    - c) For our Lobster and Suds Party on May 17 we will need 70 or more guests to break even. Costs will be in the range of \$25 for Lobster dinner and \$15 for Chicken dinner.
    - d) Diane Vukovich prepared an extensive listing of chores which are part of the meal preparation. Volunteers at our meeting covered the listed chores.
  - B. **Membership.** Frank Thomas was in touch with Jim Fee to set up a meeting date to exchange information for the transfer of chairmanship responsibilities from Jim to Frank.
  - C. **Political Action.** No report.
  - D. **Benefits.** Linda Sugarman gave us the following report.

The Retiree Dependent Insurance for those over 65 offered through Summa Care uses a Coordination of Benefits method that in most cases does not pay anything until the \$1500 out of pocket maximum is reached. Normally if Medicare will not pay for a service, Summa Care will not pay it. But there are a limited number of items that Summa-care will pay for that Medicare does not pay, assuming the \$250 deductible has been met. Unfortunately it is impossible to know what those items are. At one time we asked for a list of those items and were told preparing that kind of list was not possible. Sometimes we are surprised and do get paid for items that Medicare does not pay. The point of this is that even if you think Medicare will not pay for a medical service, submit it to Medicare and to Summa Care to find out. Summa Care will not pay for anything that has not Been submitted to Medicare first. Even if it is an item not covered by Medicare, but covered by Summa Care, the bill must be submitted to Medicare first, Medicare denies the item, and if it s covered by Summa Care, they will then pay it. Unfortunately some of the items covered by Summa Care are complicated to figure out.
  - E. **Faculty Senate.** Neal Raber reports on the meeting of April 4, 2013. The majority of the time at this meeting was spent berating the Provost's office for changing faculty teaching loads while ignoring the procedures in place for such actions. The meeting began with Chairman Rich's remarks in which he emphatically pointed out that the Board of Trustees had approved a regulation providing for a specific mechanism for determining faculty workloads. Apparently, teaching loads of some faculty members have been changed by administrators without regard to the policies in place.

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

With regard to the upcoming budget cuts, Chair Rich mentioned that he would hope that when these cuts are made that they be done in a way that minimizes the adverse impact on the academic programs of the university, especially in such a way that doing lasting damage to academic programs be avoided.

Provost Sherman began his remarks by informing the senators that one of our engineering students was named a Goldwater Scholar, the first such designation for one of our students since 2008. He went on to thank the faculty and staff with regards to activities that support the academic success of our veterans. UA is known to be veteran friendly. He said that as he had worked with the departments in optimizing faculty activity, he'd also be working with departments to manage the part time activity so as to not unnecessarily burden the institution with unplanned for health care coverage.

Former Senator Constance Bouchard then asked for approval to address the Provost, which was granted. She went on to lambast him over the workload decisions. She told him that his actions were insulting to faculty because it started with the assumption faculty members were not working to capacity. Senator Bouchard went on to give examples of the folly of the decisions coming from the Provost's office in terms of saving money. She finished by pointing out that when the accreditors were here, we heard a lot of happy talk about shared governance. She said that now, when they're out the door, that is not happening.

Next, Senator Lillie addressed the Provost and told him that we're heading toward an increasing level of mistrust between faculty and the administration. He mentioned that the names of the members of the 13 committees looking into ways to deal with the budget shortfall were not available. Provost Sherman replied by invoking Vision 2020 and claiming that his intention is to create a relationship that moves the institution forward and assures student academic success.

Associate Provost Ramsier presented for approval the new procedure for fifth week grade reporting. Faculty members were to indicate satisfactory or unsatisfactory performance for students in 100 and 200 level courses. After some discussion it was approved. He then presented a motion to admit students according to the formula  $I = a(HSGPA) + b(ACT) + c$ , where a, b, and c are constants to be determined by analysis of the data. Depending on the score, students would be classified as College-Ready, or Emergent, or Preparatory. Eventually, the changes were approved after an attempt to recommit to committee failed.

The Senate passed a resolution basically registering discontent with the changes in workload and making a recommendation that any changes that have been made should be rescinded until the administration is in compliance with the policy.

**Athletics Committee.** Additional report by Neal Raber.

The meeting on Monday, April 15, dealt mostly with a report from the Athletic Director on the Alex Abreu situation. It was determined that his Presidential suspension was under the auspices of the Student Conduct Code.

**Communications Committee.** Additional report by Neal Raber.

At our meeting on Monday, April 22, I learned that 8 retirees had responded to the communications survey. Eighty students out of 28,000 (0.3%) had responded, however,

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**Communications Committee(cont.)**

492 out of 3,000 employees had responded (16%). Also approximately 35 retirees opted in to receiving the Email Digest.

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

**G.Scholarship.** Hank Nettling reports that the cumulative contributions to our AUAR Scholarship Fund now amount to \$55,306.

**H.Newsletter.** Pam Rupert requests that all material for the Newsletter be in her hands by August 1. Please get in touch with Pam if you can't make the August time line.

**4.Unfinished Business.**

- A.Nominations.** Neal Raber reports that there are no additional nominations received for the offices of President Elect, Faculty Senate Representative and members at large. It was moved to accept the slate. The motion was approved.
- B.** The subject of Scholarship Fund Solicitations, also referred to as Memorial Gifts, came under discussion. It was decided to send our document to Carin Luli, the Associate Director of the Department of Public Affairs and Development for her perusal, evaluation and appropriate use.
- C.** In another aspect of our Scholarship Fund, Hank Nettling made a motion to transfer, for one time only, the sum of \$700 from our Association budget to the Department of Public Affairs and Development, to be deposited into our Association Scholarship Fund. The motion was approved.
- D.** Bob Gandee suggested that we present a memorial cup to our long time Board member Jim Fee, the presentation to be made at a coming luncheon. The suggestion met with approval from the Board members.

**5.New Business.**

- A.** Discussion from the floor confirmed that the new slate of Board members will begin serving at the June Board meeting; officially the terms begin on July 1, 2013.
- B.** Tom Vukovich led a discussion on the increase in expenses facing our Board in the years since our group came into being. Tom made the motion that we increase our yearly dues to \$12. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

*Hans Zbinden,* recording secretary.  
**Next Executing Board Meeting is Thursday, May 23, 2013.**