

**The Association of the University of Akron Retirees (Retirees)
Executive Board Meeting, May 28, 2015
First Floor Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

1, Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order by President June Burton at 10 a.m. Others present were Velma Pomrenke, Bob Blankenship, Stu Terrass, Ed Lasher, Linda Sugarman, Carl Lieberman, Dan Sheffer, Neal Raber, Bob Gandee, Frank Thomas, Rita Klein, Tom Vukovich and Hans Zbinden. Absent with notice were Pam Rupert, Loren Hoch and Diane Vukovich. The minutes of the April 23, 2015 were approved as written.

2 Treasurer Bob Blankenship reports a balance of \$7,257.96 for April 30, 2015. This compares with a balance of \$5,897.04 for April 30, 2014. It was moved to accept the report, subject to audit.

3. Committee reports.

A. Programs. Tom Vukovich reported 36 travelers enjoyed the April 24 AUAR Road Trip to Cleveland. Tom gave a detailed financial report on the May 15th Lobster and Suds Event, attended by 52 guests.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
29 Lobster	\$725.	UA Dining Services (Lobster, Chicken & Svc Chg)	\$774.48
15 Chicken	\$240.	Zwisler Hall Rental	200.00
8 Lasagna	\$120.	Beer and Wine	55.56
Extra items	<u>40.</u>	Supplies	<u>45.46</u>
 Total	 \$1,125.	 Total Expenses	 \$1075.50
 Profit	 \$49.50		

Neal Raber distributed a detailed flier for our Second Annual AUAR Scholarship Fundraiser. This will be a Wine Tasting and Dinner at the Little City Grill in Kent, on Wednesday July 15 beginning at 6 p.m.

B. Membership. Frank reported on Scholarship monies received with Membership Renewals for the period May 1,2014 to April 30, 2015. In addition to basic membership renewals, additional donations totaling \$2,741 were received for the Scholarship Fund.

Frank followed with a question about providing a "Thank You lunch "for the staff of HR, Alumni and Printing Svcs. as we did last year. A discussion from the floor suggested that a Thank-You of some sort for the staff would be appropriate. It was moved and approved to invite the staff involved in supporting AUAR over the past year to a luncheon in June or July.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee reported on the May 19 OCHER meeting in Columbus. Much of this information was conveyed by charts. 1) Proposed 2015 - 2016 operating budget for STRS Ohio Defined Benefit Plan. In March 1997, House Bill 586 became law, requiring institutions of higher education to adopt Alternative Retirement Plans (ARP) offered by private vendors. 3) Three charts showed 3 possible STRS Investment returns for the period 2014 to 2024. 4) A final chart showed a Fiscal Future of STRS for the period 2015 to 2034.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman gave us a brief piece of information: A section on Post-Retirement Benefits has been placed on the AUAR web page by Dan Sheffer. We need to review and revise this section as necessary.

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E. Faculty Senate Report for the Meeting on May 7, 2015

In his opening remarks, Chair Rich mentioned that at the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, Faculty Senate would go into a closed session as a quasi-committee of the whole with no one permitted in attendance who had not been elected to the Senate or who was not an ex-officio member. We would be joined by four members of the Board of Trustees at which time President Scarborough would make a presentation with details that are not to be publically disclosed before May 15. Legal services, a.k.a. Ted Mallo, had informed Chair Rich that the Sunshine Laws do not apply to Faculty Senate. Chair Rich continued his remarks by mentioning that since our last meeting, President Scarborough had released a strong statement condemning the fliers that had been distributed in the A& S building threatening sexual assault.

I should have known that we were in for a long meeting when Chair Rich concluded his remarks by inviting all of us to join him afterwards at the Thirsty Dog Brewery, where besides beer we would have available to us the Zydeco Food Truck, owned by the husband of Faculty Senate secretary, Pamela Schulze.

President Scarborough distributed to each of us a copy of College Strategic Plan Summaries and mentioned that the strategies outlined in the summary were being used to develop the budget for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1. It was to be completed by June 1 to be presented to the BOT. Deans of the Honor College and Graduate School would be hired in the next few weeks, and then the foundation would be laid for going forth. He continued by saying that there had been three summits held on Feb.13, Feb. 27, and April 9 where ideas were put forward for revising Vision 2020. Some of the significant initiatives being considered included naming the Honors College, opening and operating a new One World Schoolhouse (an independent PK-12 school), developing blended and online versions of 13 general education courses, and using the General Library as a portal college for under prepared students.

He continued by mentioning that UA needed to employ more of a hub and spoke strategy similar to KSU. Such a strategy included using the One World Schoolhouse at satellite campuses for grades 9 to 12 to help recruit students into the Honors College, attracting more veterans by employing a University Corps of Cadets, and proceeding with more campus beautification and more effective shared governance. Other initiatives he mentioned were the establishment of centers for experiential leaning and another for data science information technology. He finished his comments by saying that the view of our place in the market compared to other schools would be discussed in the closed session.

During the question and answer session, it was brought up that there could be a significant loss of revenue to the main campus when students opt to take general education courses at Wayne and pay a significantly reduced tuition. President Scarborough replied that losing funds at the front end would be mitigated as more students move forward and get into higher division courses and as we attract students who are deciding to go someplace else right now. Wayne College would serve as a test market.

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Another question from Senator Landis dealt with what considerations have been given to the infrastructure of the university. President Scarborough responded that such discussions are underway with the development of the budget. It is a question of what to do with limited resources, but deferred maintenance cannot be allowed to continue. We have to consider satellite campuses, many of which are in the wrong locations. One is in a room above a bar. K.S.U. is actually smaller on the main campus and bigger on their satellite campuses.

In response to Senator Lashbrook's question about programs suffering because of the many retiring faculty, he said that with a high degree of certainty, professors would be hired. Currently, the Provost is analyzing the situation to make wise decisions.

It was at this point that Senator Lazar from the library harangued the President with her question. She was irate that he had not met with the faculty of the library, yet he mentioned that the library would be a portal for under prepared students. She said the idea that the library be associated with such students was a bad one. She pointed out that the library serves all levels of students and faculty and instead of adding to its plate, the problem that the UA Library is last in Ohio in the ratio of library to student population should be addressed. She implored him to talk to the faculty sooner rather than later and to do something about the fact that they have no permanent dean nor department heads and no open faculty positions are being filled. His response was too vague to bother reporting. Senator Franks did ask whether the library portal idea came from the administration or the library. To which President Scarborough responded that with interim deans and interim department heads, it probably came from his side.

Provost Sherman was brief in his comments. He pointed out that over 3,000 degrees would be awarded at the graduation ceremonies. There were no questions for him.

During the committee reports, the Senate proceeded with the following actions:

- Approving the creation of the Center for Data Science and Information Technology in CBA and CAS to include the Department of Business and Information Technology in the College of Applied Science and Technology provided the details are worked out in the summer and approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
- Approving the move of the Department of Early Childhood Development from CAST to CAS.
- Agreeing that The One World Schoolhouse proposal has merit and the faculty of the College of Education will develop a detailed plan before implementing it,
- Approving the establishment of the Biomimicry Research and Innovation Center Initiative.
- Approving the establishment of the National Center for Choreography.
- Approving changes in measuring English Language proficiency for international students to make the rule consistent with that approved by the Graduate School.

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- Approving the report of the Library Committee stating that there is no academic benefit to combining the Main Library with the Science and Engineering Library.
- Approving the GenEd Chairs Committee proposal that those teaching general education courses, including graduate students, have completed a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours in the content area. (It was already after 4:30 and at this point in the meeting with four BOT members in attendance waiting for the closed session to begin, we had to endure a ridiculous amendment from Senator Shastry that all such teachers have a 3.8 GPA! It was unanimously defeated.)
- Tabled a resolution from the Computing and Communications Technologies Committee that The University of Akron should rapidly phase out the use of the current paper-based evaluation of instruction system and broadly adopt the use of the online evaluation of instruction system.

While the BOT members were in the room, Senator Lillie in his University Council report made it clear that the bylaws were waiting approval by the BOT.

At this point in time, the meeting went into closed session and the transcriber, the administrative assistant and the secretary ceased taking notes. Four members of the BOT were in attendance – Chair Richard Pogue, Vice Chair Jonathan Pavloff, Olivia Demas, and Ralph Palmisano. The closed session ended and Faculty Senate went back into open session in order to adjourn at 6:10 P.M.!

- F. Website.** No report.
- G. AUAR Scholarships.** Hank Nettling reported that there were five donors who contributed \$92 to our Scholarship Fund.
- H. Newsletter.** No report.
- 5. New Business.** Diane Vukovich has appointed Carl Lieberman as Chair of the AUAR Scholarship committee, together with Velma Pomrenke and June Burton.

We take note of the passing of our colleague Eberhard Albrecht Meinecke, Professor of Polymer Science, May 23rd, 2015.

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes (59)

**Hans Zbinden, recording secretary
Next Executive Board Meeting is June 25, 2015
Alumni Office Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**