

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting, May 26, 2016  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

1. **Opening Remarks.** The Board meeting was called to order by President Diane Vukovich at 10:00am. Others present were Bob Blankenship, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Velma Pomrenke, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Frank Thomas, and Tom Vukovich. Absent with notice: Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss, Neal Raber, Hans Zbinden. The minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting were approved as written.
  
2. **Treasure.** Bob Blankenship reported a current April balance of \$6,146.30. Note: This figure includes the expenses from the AURA Road Trip but not the recent Lobster and Suds event. The April balance from a year ago (April 2015) was \$7,257.96.
  
3. **Committee Reports.**
  - A. **Special Event.** Tom Vukovich presented the Financial Report on the Lobster and Suds event of May 20, 2016. Total income for the event was \$1,830.00. Expenses totaled \$1,593.82 leaving us with a small profit of \$236.18. There were 77 members and guests present to enjoy the event. The Euclid Fish Company supplied the lobsters charging us only \$17 per pound, versus the \$30 per pound requested by Aramark, the University's new food service company. Zwisler Hall has been reserved again for this event next year, May 19, 2017. A discussion followed concerning the low quality of the other entrees (chicken and lasagna) supplied by Aramark. Diane and Diane Vukovich will explore other options for next year.

**Programs.** Tom and Diane reported that they have requested menus for next year's luncheon meetings regularly since March. They had received nothing as of this Board meeting. Therefore no menus have been set. However, the program locations, times, topics and speakers are firming up well:

<b>Fall 2016 Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
9/14/16	Quaker Square	Review of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Archives	11:30am-1:00pm	Victor Fleischer, Archivist, UA
10/12/16	Quaker Square	Role of Foreign Policy in Presidential Elections	11:30am-1:00pm	Dr. Walter Hixon, Professor of History, UA
11/9/16	Quaker	Analysis of 2016	11:30am-	Dr. Stephen

	Square	Presidential Election	1:00pm	Brooks, Bliss Institute, UA
12/14/16	Quaker Square	Holiday Party	11:30am- 1:00pm	
Spring 2017 Dates				
2/8/17	Quaker Square	Antarctica	11:30am- 1:00pm	Claire Purdy
3/8/17	Quaker Square	Maj. John Mohn & His 1200 Mile Forced March as a WWII Prisoner of War	11:30am- 1:00pm	Mandy Pond, Archivist, Massillon Museum
4/12/17	Quaker Square	TBA	11:30am- 1:00pm	

**B. Membership.** Diane Vukovich reported that Founders Day recruitment went well. Diane had e-mailed the entire list of retirees after the Founders Day luncheon since so few were at that event. Ultimately, we had around 5 or 6 new members who registered for and attended Lobster and Suds! All were in agreement with Diane that Willie Kollman did a fantastic job as MC at the luncheon.

Frank Thomas reported that 12 new retirees joined AUAR immediately upon receiving their membership information. He also wanted everyone to be aware that all retiree e-mails are now on the UA website. Frank will be taking the HR staff out for their annual lunch at the Spaghetti Warehouse on June 21, 2016 to thank them for their support. Dues renewal notices will be going out soon. Dues will be due by July 1, 2016 for the 2016-2017 year.

**C. Political Action.** Bob Gandee reported on the May 17, 2016 OCHER Meeting in Columbus. He reported that both ORTA and PERI have new executives who are trying to dovetail the organizations in order to have stronger influence in the state legislature. Also discussed at the OCHER meeting was ongoing discussion concerning the mitigating rates on our health care plans. They predict that STRS will have a decision made by August for 2017. The solvency period for the STRS health care fund shows a drop to 15 years solvency. See the STRS website for more information.

**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported that the new AAUP contract is posted on the web. She is going to investigate the retirees section on health care in detail and gather information for the newsletter.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Presented in writing by Neal Raber, absent with notice.

## **FACULTY SENATE REPORT TO AUAR EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**May 26, 2016**

### **FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**May 5, 2016**

In his opening remarks, Chair Rich mentioned that confirmed admissions were down 24% and thus the budget for the coming school year would not be finalized until the end of summer. The final decline in enrollment would have a significant impact on the upcoming budget.

President Scarborough was present and in his remarks, he said that the good news was that the decline had gone from 34% to 29% to the current 24%. He said that 20% of incoming freshmen make their decision during the summer and that high school counselors had informed him that there were a large number of students who were undecided. He continued by saying that UA was graduating more than 4500 and that was both good and bad news. Subsequently, Chair Rich questioned his numbers. Chair Rich said that 4500 sounded a bit high. Scarborough responded that 4500 was the number he heard at the Board meeting. Recently, news reports have set the number around 3000.

Scarborough continued by reporting that he had appointed William Lyons as his interim chief of staff. Lyons has been a political science professor at UA since 1996, and is currently the director of the Center for Conflict Management. He replaces retiring Paul Herold.

When asked questions about the search for the Dean of University Library and the future of the Fulbright Scholars program, Scarborough said that Interim Provost Ramsier would be better prepared to answer those questions.

In his remarks, Ramsier said that the Dean of University Library position would be filled on an interim basis for one year by someone from within. The same would be true of the Dean of Education. Before he began the question and answer period, he mentioned that he had heard that there would be protests at the graduation ceremonies and he condescendingly said that he expects faculty to act professionally.

In response to a question by Senator Erickson, Ramsier stated that funding for the UA students who were Fulbright Scholars would remain unchanged; however, the College of Business Administration was looking into ending free tuition for Fulbright Scholars who come from other schools to attend UA.

During committee reports, Faculty Senate passed a motion to move the Department of Economics from CAS to CBA. Senator Erickson said the current dean of

CBA had encouraged the move, because most of the Economics majors were in CBA. In the past, she said that the deans of CBA thought that Economics was not worth anything.

Next Senator Bouchard introduced a motion to recommend the suspension of the Gen Ed Core of courses at Wayne College. She said, "The official report notes that failure rates were significantly higher in these online courses than in the face-to-face versions of the same courses. These courses lure in unprepared students with extremely low prices and thus sets them up for failure. The courses harvested students from CAS and CAST, and there had been no real marketing of the Core 13 courses to attract new students. One-fourth of the students who took these courses in the fall did not take any other course in the spring. They had been marketed as blended, which was not true." The motion passed with a vote of 23 – 18.

The Athletics Committee report by its chair John Nicholas corrected something he had said at our last meeting. According to Anne Jorgenson, athletic advisors cannot waive prerequisites. It had been done in error once in the past. Nicholas went on to say that Nathan Mortimer was asked by the committee, "What portion of the General Services Fee for students goes to Athletics?" He responded, "A portion." Chair Rich interjected that it was closer to 90%. The Athletics Director, Larry Williams, had reported to the committee that 27 million dollars of the UA budget goes to Athletics and that is 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> in the MAC.

Next, Faculty Senate passed a motion to recommend that the Graduate School offices be moved from Polsky to a central location on campus. Graduate Council had suggested that Simmons Hall could be a possibility.

University Council representative, Senator Erickson, reported that there was no meeting because of a lack of a quorum. However, she continued speaking by describing the informal discussion about the UA budget that took place. Finally, after she was done with that, she went on to point out what constituencies were absent resulting in a lack of a quorum.

When she was finished, Chair Rich thanked her for the extensive report on the non-meeting!

During the New Business portion of the meeting, Senator Bouchard put forth a motion to censure President Scarborough, because it has been three months since the 50-2 no-confidence vote, and he has not responded to Faculty Senate. Senator Arter asked if that meant that President Scarborough could not talk to Faculty Senate. Chair Rich replied, "Censure is spelled c-e-n-s-u-r-e, not c-e-n-s-o-r!" Finally, there was an amendment added to Senator Bouchard's motion. It requested that President Scarborough meet with Faculty Senate in May to address the issues in the no-confidence vote. The motion and amendment passed unanimously. President Scarborough agreed to meet with Faculty Senate on May 19 to go over the issues in the no-confidence vote!

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm. *Neal Raber*

## **FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**May 19, 2016**

The special meeting called to discuss the points in the no-confidence vote with President Scarborough started at 3:05 with a statement by Scarborough. At 4:40, I left the meeting. It continued until 5:30, and since Bob Gandee was present until the end, I will let him fill you in on the details.

Bob Gandee added further comments relaying some of the questions posed by various senators. He recommended we view the transcripts of the meeting posted on the web.

- F. **University & Community Service/Website.** Dan Sheffer reported that he explored the “counter” idea for our website to see how much the website is being used. He was able to access a “page view” from December through May, which indicated 1,261 clicks. Approximately 600 clicked further into our homepage directories and other information sites about retirement. Dan will check with HR to see what is put into the Directories on the web. He’s currently working on adding the June through December program information. D. Vukovich said she will start including AUAR’s web address on all her fliers. She asked Dan to check for all dates & documents that need to be up-dated for the new academic year. All new information about the Board will be collected at the June Board meeting.
  - G. **Scholarship.** D. Vukovich reported that she has asked Carl Lieberman to prepare a scholarship report for the next newsletter. A discussion followed concerning creating a master list of all AUAR’s scholarship recipients since its inception that would include the students’ names and amounts received. This will be explored further.
  - H. **Newsletter.** Pam Rupert announced a late August deadline for the Fall newsletter. She asked board members to have any information they want included sent to her by August 15 for preparation. Bob Gandee reported that he passed out copies of our newsletter at the OCHER meeting and all were very impressed!
4. **Unfinished Business.** No unfinished business.

5. **New Business.** Tom Vukovich suggested that we include information about Heart to Heart Ministries upcoming seminar the summer on retirement on our webpage. He had received information about this from Fr. Norm Douglas at another event Tom had attended. The Board was in consensus that this would be a beneficial opportunity for the newly retired. Dan Sheffer will include it on our website.

Tom Vukovich will contact Nathan Mortimer concerning our retirees' parking passes. Current passes will expire this summer. The Board was asked not to contact anyone on their own.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

Submitted by:

Rita Klein, Corresponding Secretary filling in for Hans Zbinden

**Next Executive Board Meeting: June 23, 2016.  
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

Reminder: Board photo will be taken at this meeting!