

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting, April 26, 2018
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

- I. Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on April 26th by President Neal Raber at 10:05am.
- II. Others present included** Bob Blankenship, Bob Gandee, John Heminger, Loren Hoch, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss-Spitler, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Diane Vukovich, Tom Vukovich, Martha Vye, and Mel Vye.
- III. Excused:** JoAnn Collier, Cathy Edwards, Ali Hajjafar, Frank Thomas.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the March 22nd meeting were approved as mailed.
- V. Treasure's Report.** Bob Blankenship reported a March 2018 balance of \$8,515.25 which compared favorably to the March 2017 balance of \$7,114.31. Expenses for March were \$142.56 for the printing of our latest Newsletter. The report was filed for audit.
- VI. Corresponding Secretary:** Martha Vye reported that she sent a sympathy card to JoAnn Collier on the death of her husband.
- VII. Committee Reports.**
- A. Programs.** Bob Blankenship reported that there were over 50 in attendance at our April luncheon. Cost for the luncheon was \$574.00 and proceeds taken in were \$713 (which includes the 50/50 raffle). Tom Vukovich also mentioned that the speaker, Mark Price, respectfully declined our thank you gift, evidently feeling that allowing him to sell copies of his book was thanks enough.
- Tom Vukovich reported that the fall luncheon dates and speakers are coming together. The following have been confirmed:
- September 12, 2018 – Randy Pelton – Panama & Columbia Travelogue – handled by Tom Vukovich
 - October 10, 2018 – Bob Grau – Appalachian Trail Adventure – handled by Neal Raber
 - November 14, 2018 – Bill Considine – Leadership: Lessons Learned from Miracle Children – handled by Rita Klein

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- **December 12, 2018 – Holiday Party: St. Nicholas Balalaika Orchestra – handled by Tom Vukovich**

Tom also noted that he will call Mark Auburn to see if his book will be ready in the spring. Mark is willing to be our luncheon speaker in either February or March.

Neal thanked Kathy Edwards for assisting Bob Blankenship at luncheon check-in and Rita Klein for handling the 50/50 Raffle.

Special Events: Tom Vukovich reported that over 50 are signed up for the Road Trip.

The Lobster and Suds flier is out already with a map to the new location. He has again ordered the lobsters from Euclid Fish Market with the lobsters costing around \$16.00 per pound. Prices will remain the same as last year.

Tom and Diane have ordered the other entrees from Waterloo Restaurant: Chicken Marsala and Vegetable Lasagna. Set up will begin at 4:00p. Diane Vukovich went over the list of assignments for this event to make sure everything was covered. Rita Klein will bring an extra roaster.

Tom reported that the dates for next year's Special Events are:

- **November 2, 2018 – Evening Supper Event (changing menu from soup and chili; will be discussed further)**
- **April 26, 2019 – Road Trip**
- **May 17, 2019 - Lobster and Suds**

Neal reported that our Scholarship Fundraiser held at Little City Grill had 34 in attendance. Bert, owner of Little City Grill donated \$250 toward our scholarship instead of the \$170 promised. We received an extra \$55 in miscellaneous donations. Neal purchased a raffle gift basket from Pearl Coffee which earned \$42.00 in profit as well. All totaled, Neal reported that we were able to add \$398.00 to our scholarship fund! It was suggested to have Martha Vye send a special "thank you" note to Bert at Little City Grill.

B. Membership. There was no membership report. Neal reported that there are 128 new retirees this year and that everyone is invited to help with stuffing the mailing in HR at 2:00p on Monday.

The Board also reviewed the AUAR brochure. It was decided to keep the brochure blue but some of the wording was edited in several places.

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It was suggested to have Jason Sanders, who handles our scholarship funds, send Frank the names and address of contributors to our scholarship fund. Martha will then send “thank you” notes to all.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee reported that the last OCHER meeting focused on the stock market, restoring the cost of living benefit vs holding a reserve for market dips or the best way to handle positive finances.

D. Benefits. No report.

E. Faculty Senate. Bob Gandee made the following report:

Chair Bill Rich informed the Senate of his upcoming retirement from the University at the close of the academic year. For the remainder of his term, which concludes August 2019, Bill will be replaced by the Vice Chair, Senator Linda Saliga. Rich will return in the Fall as the volunteer parliamentarian.

President Wilson was not in attendance for the April Meeting of the Faculty Senate, as he was in Japan on University business. In the President’s place was Roland Bauer, Chair, Board of Trustees, University of Akron. Chair Bauer was most entertaining for he spoke for an extended period without notes. He and the Board did not want to see President Wilson depart the Presidency, for they supported Matt. The major theme of his remarks was the process of putting an interim in place and the procedures for involving the various segments of the University Community in the search for the next President. Those who read the Akron Beacon Journal, know of the appointment of John Green, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, as the Interim President. This will be followed with a national search for a permanent President. Bauer’s secondary issue of concern was the completion of the Academic Program Review. The Board is interested in receiving the completed report.

The Q&A, following Bauer’s presentation, provided insight into Bauer’s personality.

Senator Dane Quinn wanted to know the status of the other searches involving administrative positions and suggested that he (Bauer) obtain from the faculty raw recommendations addressing the ideal characteristics of a presidential candidate.

Chair Bauer: Obtaining the recommendations of the faculty and the other constituency groups will be among the top three things we will do. About the other searches, I do not know. We will be talking about them.

Senator J. Richard Elliott wanted to know how the Board felt about the \$26 million-dollar subsidy for athletics. How do you explain it?

Chair Bauer: The subsidy is not \$26 million. We need to come to a common understanding of what the real data are. Athletics ought to be a part of a greater conversation about the strategic plan for the University. Athletics does not exist separate and apart from the University.

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Senator Janet Klein wanted to know if he (Bauer) was going to tell the candidates for the Presidency that this is a research university.

Chair Bauer: The question may have different meanings to different people. Purdue and MIT are research universities. I think we are, too. Maybe not to the same extent that Purdue or MIT are. The real question is, where should we focus our research? I can't answer the question in terms of people and dollars. I think it should be part of the program review process, part of the strategic planning process to determine where in the research spectrum this University will play. "This Rollie Bauer talking, but I think it is important."

Senator Harvey Sterns addressed the replacement of the retiring faculty.

Chair Bauer: Yes, that is front and center. We need to educate students. We want students to want to come here. We need to have a strong faculty. That's absolutely the case.

Senator Pamela Schulze wanted to know if the athletics department was subjected to the same review analysis as the other academic program.

Chair Bauer: I don't know.

The senate elected Chair Rich, Secretary Jon Miller and Vice Chair Linda Saliga as Senate Representatives to the Board of Trustees Presidential Advisory and Steering Committee.

Senator Janet Bean reported that Akron's Gen Ed was one of five programs that have been selected as an effective Gen Ed programs by the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Senator Phil Allen reported the discussion in Graduate Council relative to the establishment of three levels of Graduate Faculty. The discussion continues.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer reported that all is up to date.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported that the December endowment balance was \$114,958.52 and that's the most recent report he has received. Gifts to the endowment from January to April totaled \$588.00. Carl will request names for scholarship consideration soon and hopes to be able to present candidates for confirmation at the June meeting.

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H. Newsletter. Pam Rupert has begun gathering information for the fall newsletter. She has set an August deadline.

VIII. Unfinished Business. None.

IX. New Business. Ed Lasher needs back up for pictures at Lobster and Suds. Diane will provide assistance.

X. Adjournment at 11:18p.

Respectfully submitted:
Rita Klein, Recording Secretary

**Next Executive Board Meeting:
May 24, 2018
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**