

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting April 25, 2024 Minutes
Held in person and Zoom**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on April 25, 2024 by President Harvey Sterns at 10:00 am.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending: Harvey Sterns, John Heminger, Mary Verstraete, Linda Sugarman, Robert Gandee, Ali Hajjafar (Zoom), Richard Milford, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Kathy DuBose, Tom Vukovich, Rita Klein, Dan Sheffer, Carl Lieberman (Phone)

Absent: Connie Heldenfels, Carl Lieberman, Cathy Edwards, Mary Schadle, Tom Nichols, Richard Steiner, Diane Vukovich

Harvey noted that the VP/President-Elect issue still exists and encouraged everyone to try to recruit more people to get involved.

The Nominating Committee will be composed of the three Members-At-Large not up for re-election; Kathy DuBose, Richard Milford and Tom Nichols. The Board positions open for 2024-2025 are President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer (John Heminger noted he would be willing to serve another term), Public Relations (Martha Vye mentioned that she would be willing to serve another term), and 3 Member-At-Large positions (not sure if Richard Steiner is planning on continuing for another term). We also need a new Scholarship Chair and another Faculty Senator.

III. Approval of Minutes: Three corrections were identified; The date in the Call to Order should be March 28, 2024, Richard Steiner was listed as both here and absent – he was absent, and the Carrino family's name was misspelled in the Corresponding Secretary's report. Bob Gandee moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Rita Klein seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report: It was reported that the missing cash was 'found' by the Bursar's office.

Mary Verstraete moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Linda Sugarman seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

March 2024

UA Account income: membership dues \$30.00; luncheon proceeds \$499.00.

UA Account expenses: Roller Coach & Tours Inc. \$971.25, Aramark Catering \$493.17.

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

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	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$12,064.87*	\$152.48	\$12,217.35*
Income	\$529.00	\$0.00	\$529.00
Expenses	\$1,464.42	\$0.00	\$1,464.42
Final balance	\$11,129.45**	\$152.48	\$11,281.93**
Final Balance			
March 2023	\$10,528.33*	\$195.38	\$10,723.71*

* These include dues payments for future years.

** These include dues payments for future years of approximately \$4728.

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman reported that she sent a “Get Well” card to Carl Lieberman, and “Sympathy” cards to the families of David Ritchey and Andrew Rancer. She reported that one card sent to Carl was returned “no patient by that name”.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Tom Vukovich reported that we had a good presentation last week and noted that we had some new people at the lunch.

Tom mentioned that the first lunch speaker for the fall had been recruited and would be Gregory Wilson, the Director of Graduate Studies and he would report on the History of Akron’s Black Community.

Tom reported that we have 37 people for the Road Trip on April 26. All payments have been received except for one and he will send the proceeds to John Hemminger once the Facilities have been paid.

Lobster and Suds will take place on June 7th at the Hampton Ridge Party Center.

The OCHER meeting went well. Although the attendance was not what we hoped for, we received great feedback from the attendees. Dan and Tom would like to thank the alumni office for supplying the speaker gifts.

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B. Membership: Chair Mel Vye reported that Emily Zapach has taken over for Claudia. She indicated the office was willing to send postcards to encourage people to renew their membership in AUAR. Dan Sheffer noted that we need to remind Life Members about the Scholarship and Mel indicated that likely three postcards would be sent; one to Life Members, one to current members, and one to members whose membership has lapsed for one year.

We all need to try to bring a new friend to one of the lunches this Fall.

C. Political Action: Bob Gandee wanted to officially thanks Dan Sheffer and Tom Vukovich for the great work they did organizing the OCHER retirement seminar.

OCHER has not met since the last AUAR Board Meeting.

Dan reported that the newspaper indicated the Wade Steen (one of the reformers) was reinstated and this will tip the majority on the Board.

He also mentioned that people are nervous about potential investment changes. However, most of the changes the reformers are proposing are actually illegal. Tom asked who would watch for that and Dan replied that any Board member could and they would bring it to the attention of the Attorney General.

Dan also mentioned that Mary Ann Anderson from YSU will be the new OCHER President.

D. Benefits: Linda Sugarman had no report. Tom mentioned that he is not getting any response from Jared Coleman about the parking situation or how retirees can register.

E. Faculty Senate: Ali Hajjafar sent the minutes from the last meeting to the Board via e-mail. He noted that the President of the University attended this last meeting.

Harvey commended Ali for serving as our Faculty Senate representative for the past years.

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F. University & Community Service/Website: No report

G. Scholarship: Interim Chair Rita Klein mentioned that she had spoken to Andrea Collins, the Director of Development for Stewardship, who indicated that we had \$2,389 in our scholarship spending account from last year and we spent \$6000; three-\$2000 scholarships. Another \$6000 is expected for distribution again this year for another three \$2000 scholarships. She would also remind the Scholarship Committee of our requirements for a Junior or Senior level student with a GPA of 3.0 and a rotation of colleges for the recipients.

H. Newsletter: Martha Vye reported that she sent the summary of the OCHER Retirement seminar from Dan over to Tony. The deadline for articles is 8/15/2024.

VII. Old Business.

Rita Klein will send out a list of her current list for Thank You gift cards to the Board of AUAR to review and then will send the Gift Cards.

Ad Hoc Reference Committee on By-Laws: Harvey Sterns, Dan Sheffer, Rita Klein and Carl Leiberman, Linda Sugarman

Discussion of activities such as participation of members in Age Friendly Akron/Summit County, Age Friendly University Initiatives and other suggestions.

VIII. New Business.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully Submitted: Mary C. Verstraete, Recording Secretary

The next meeting of the 2023-2024 year is scheduled for May 23, 2024 at 10:00 am in the Infocision Board Room.

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Faculty Senate Meeting April 4, 2024

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remarks she said: At next month's senate meeting, we'll hold an election for the position of Secretary, which is currently held by Angela Hartsock. The Secretary is responsible – with Heather Loughney - for preparing the minutes of the senate meetings and arranging for the orderly conduct of senate business. The secretary is a member of the senate executive committee and attends our weekly meetings. If any of you are interested in learning more about this important position, please contact Secretary Hartsock or myself.

Secretary of Executive Committee reported that General Counsel requested to change language in bylaws that were approved at the March meeting and substituted gender neutral language. The changes brought as a motion by Executive Committee to the floor and received approval without dissent

President Miller in his remarks said: welcome everyone and thank you for your service in this group. Aside from Mark Lerner, Mark Smith is also attending today. Thank you for attending today.

Next week on Tuesday at 5 pm we will give testimony to workforce in higher education, centered around capital budget. Committee has asked for a lot of information on the university, rich discussion expected. We will be the second university to go. Unique opportunity for universities to speak to the committees that decide funding. Look forward to our opportunity to talk about the university. There is a link to watch the proceedings, we'll put that out next week and distribute the testimony we'll be giving. Excited about our story and giving it.

Want to mention two things about facilities and capital projects:
Feasibility of privatizing student housing. Will be taken up by BOT in spring and fall, designed to enhance financial stability and also student experience. Working with John Messina on this. Engaging potential vendors.

It does appear that the STEM high school will be moving to a new location, APS worked hard to keep it here. Deck removal going on, will be turned into green space.

No remark from provost.

In Committee Reports ,APC's motion regarding granting credit for life experience, Its changes in Bulletin and number of acceptable credits was approved without dissent. CCTC submitted a written report. CRC brought 8 program and 10 course proposals for approval and were approved. Course evaluation committee presented their recommendations and asked for comments and suggestions. Graduate Counsel representative brought motions regarding updates to Graduate student classifications, Graduate student admissions, Graduate student standards, Master degree

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requirements, Doctoral degree requirements, and Graduate Certificate programs requirements. All motions were approved.

GSG representative reported: GSG is in the heart of graduate student appreciation week, on Monday they hosted a collaboration event with House Three-Thirty offering graduate students free ice cream, yesterday with the Graduate School, almost 60 students presented their research at Graduate Student Research Day, tomorrow, GSG is offering two professional development events to end our appreciation week. GSG will be working on transitioning the new President and Vice President into their roles throughout the next month to successfully prepare the next administration.

USG representative reported: -This week, the Judicial Branch of USG has led Advocacy Week. Each day, they highlighted different areas of campus to educate students about the many resources available to them. We have another very exciting event coming up next week. USG has collaborated with Compass Coffee, a local Akron coffee shop, to create a UA themed coffee drink. The Zips Blue Bliss drink will be available at Compass Coffee next Wednesday, April 10th and can be served hot or iced. Please make sure to stop by and support the Well CDC and encourage your students to attend the Zip and Paint event at Compass Coffee from 6-8 pm next Wednesday.

He introduced the incoming president of USG and asked her to address the body: DeWitt - Hello everyone! My name is Grace DeWitt, and I will be the Student Body President for the coming academic year. I am thankful for the opportunity to speak to you briefly today. A little bit about me, I am a third-year student majoring in Political Science and Global Studies with a Pre-Law Philosophy Minor and an International Business Certificate. My running mate, Elena Kozma, was unfortunately not able to make it today. She is a third-year student majoring in Marketing with a Professional Social Media Certificate. In the past, we have both been involved in USG. I have served as the Senator for the Williams Honors College for three years and also the Vice Senate Chair in the past year. Elena has been a Social Media Curator and is now the Director of Media and Analytics.

For those of you that might not know, all USG president and vice president candidates must run on a ticket and develop a platform. The name of our platform for the coming year is Unify UAkron. It has three pillars, which are Academic, Professional, and Community Development. This was created through asking students what was most important to them at the university. Most responses revolved around these three things. The platform is intentionally broad so it can relate to the wide range of issues that students face and have the capability to help as many students as possible. Elena and I are both excited for the coming year, and we look forward to working with administration to enhance the student experience at UA.