

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)  
Executive Board Meeting February 23, 2023 Minutes  
Held in person and Zoom**

**I. Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on February 23, 2023 by President Rita Klein at 10:00 am.

**II. Welcome & Announcements:**

Members attending: Connie Heldenfels, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Dan Sheffer, Harvey Sterns, Dick Steiner, Tom Nichols, Ali Hajafar, Carl Lieberman, Mary Schadle, Mary Verstraete

Absent: Bob Gandee, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, Tom Vukovich, Diane Vukovich, Laura Moss Spitler, Linda Sugarman

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the January 26, 2022 Executive Board meeting were approved as submitted.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report.** John Heminger reported:

**January 2023**

UA Account income: membership dues \$144.00

UA Account expenses: Print Services Dept. \$1208.64

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: to Tom Vukovich for speaker gifts \$21.34;

to Tom Vukovich for Soup & Chili expenses \$21.96

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$11,246.65*	\$238.68	\$11,485.33*
Income	\$144.00	\$0.00	\$144.00
Expenses	\$1,208.64	\$43.30	\$1,251.94
Final balance	\$10,182.01*	\$195.38	\$10,377.39*
Final Balance			
January 2022	\$8,247.60	\$243.99	\$8,491.59

\* These include dues payments for future years.

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**Treasurer’s comments from February 23, 2023 AUAR Board meeting.**

AUAR is losing money. This note is not a complete financial report, but is meant only to highlight those expenses that are having the most negative impact on our treasury.

We currently have 191 paid members, 35 of whom are lifetime members. There are also a very few members who paid their dues in advance for 2 or 3 years. Our annual dues of \$12 per member produces income of approximately \$2300. All members receive two newsletters per year. The most recent newsletter cost \$1200, for a yearly projected annual cost of \$2400. This gives a loss of \$100. All other daily operating expenses and event expenses not fully funded by participants, reduce the amount in our treasury.

Our luncheon meals and room rentals are funded by \$15 charged per meal and the sale of raffle tickets. Over seven luncheons, there was a gain of about \$100. Costs for speaker gifts and entertainment were approximately \$250 per year. Combining these we have the loss due to the luncheons was approximately \$150 per year. The costs of Soup & Chili and the Road Trip are approximately covered by fees paid by those who attend. Our most recent Lobster & Suds Dinner had a loss of a little more than \$200. Its room rental charge is expected to increase substantially in 2024. Together these major expenses and others, all listed in the following table, reduce the AUAR treasury by approximately \$830 per year.

<b>Expense Items</b>	<b>Loss</b>
Newsletter	\$100.00
Luncheon meals, speaker gifts & entertainment	\$150.00
Lobster & Suds	\$200.00
Helpers Lunch	\$30.00
OCHER membership dues	\$100.00
Book award	\$250.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$830.00</b>

At the January board meeting it was suggested to increase the annual dues from \$12 to \$15. Assuming the number of paid memberships remains constant, this would increase revenue by approximately  $(\$3)(191-35)=\$468$ . On January 31, 2023, the balance in our treasury was \$10,377.39. We have advanced payment of dues of approximately  $(\$108)(35)=\$3780$ , leaving an available balance of approximately  $\$10,377.39 - \$3,780 = \$6597.39$ .

Further discussion of the finances brought into question the use of Quaker Square for the lunches; costs basically equal expenses except for Speaker gifts and/or entertainment. It was suggested that the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle be

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used for the book scholarship. It was also suggested that a fundraiser be held to fund the book scholarship and/or other scholarships.

At the Board meeting in March, we will discuss the issue of raising Dues and/or luncheon fees. A raise in Dues must be approved by the membership.

**V. Corresponding Secretary.** Linda Sugarman reported that she sent a Condolence card to the family of Loren Hoch.

**VI. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs:** Chair Tom Vukovich was absent. Rita reported that there was good attendance at the last luncheon and the fliers for March have been sent to Kelly & Chris. Five were sent out by snail mail. The Road Trip may be changed into a scholarship fundraiser since bus costs are proving to be cost prohibitive.

**B. Membership.** Chair Mel Vyewas absent and there was no report.

**C. Political Action.** Dan Sheffer reported that next OCHER meeting will be held March 21, 2023.

**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman was absent and there was no report.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Ali Hajjafar submitted his report on the Senate Meeting of February 2, 2022 via e-mail and it is attached to the end of these minutes.

The Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Senate confirmed that Harvey Sterns and Ali Hajjafar will be the AUAR representatives for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. The Faculty Senate Bylaws state that appointments are for 3 years and the AUAR Bylaws state that appointments are for 2 years.

**F. University & Community Service/Website.** Dan reported that everything on the website was up to date. He asked the Board Members to please review the web site and suggest additions and changes. Dan will check to see if the list of retirees from HR is up to date.

**G. Scholarship.** Mary Schadle reported that the new scholarship document will be signed as soon as Claudia is back in town. It includes the statement "Distributions will not be made from the principal." Scholarship applications are due May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**H. Newsletter.** Martha Vye was absent. There was a question as to whether Sue Annis received the Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 newsletters. Rita will send copies to her.

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**VII. Old Business.**

- a. The \$250 Book Scholarship was approved by the Board and this was communicated to Dr. Wrice's office.

**VIII. New Business.**

- b. The nominating Committee will send an email to the membership to recruit Members-at-Large and a President-Elect nominations for the upcoming year.

**IX. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

**Respectfully submitted:  
Mary Verstraete, Recording Secretary**

**The next meeting of the 2022-2023 year is scheduled for March23, 2023  
at 10:00 am in-person at the Infocision Board Room**

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**Faculty Senate Meeting February 2, 2023**

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remark, she talked about the January meeting of EC with Provost. In that meeting they talked about how to foster a “culture of yes” at UA, and shared examples of times when individuals have been frustrated in attempts to develop a new initiative. The provost encouraged everyone to let him know whenever they hear of such instances so they can be addressed. She announced the creation of a button on the senate home page allowing anyone to submit questions or comments anonymously. She talked about the software ChatGPT which has major implications for the way faculty teach and some of them may have already found creative ways to use it as a learning tool in the classroom, especially when faculty wonder if plagiarism has occurred in a submitted work. She said Gwen Price the vice provost is forming a group to discuss the implications of this technology. If anyone interested to be part of this group, contact Gwen Price directly. Finally, she talked about Rethinking Race event and the panel on the student perspective on Diversity at the University of Akron in and out of classroom. This panel will be on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm. She said Those working on programming for Rethinking Race created this opportunity so that faculty and administration can hear directly from students about the challenges they experience on campus. Now more than ever we must listen carefully to those experiencing intentional - or unintentional - racism to heighten our awareness, be an ally and learn how we can effect positive change in every way we can.

EC secretary reported an update on their work as follows:

Implementation of the MOU on Shared Governance: In coordination with the Akron-AAUP and the Office of Academic Affairs, we continue to work on defining the role of the ad-hoc Academic Investment Committee. This impacts language in Section B of the MOU on Shared Governance. Revisions are being returned to the Labor Management Policy Committee.

Updated Transfer Credit Process: The enrollment team has provided the Academic Policies Committee with a proposal for changes to the transfer credit process. The APC will consider the proposed process and work with representatives from OAA and the enrollment team to bring a recommendation to the senate.

Senate Committees: The Senate EC is in communication with the Interdisciplinary Council to determine the continuing need for the Council, its charge and composition moving forward, and the possibility of the Council becoming an ad-hoc or standing committee of faculty senate.

ODHE Duplicative Programs: As a follow-up on conversations about the ODHE list of recommended program closures, the EC will work with the Akron-AAUP and provost’s office to determine best practices moving forward.

Senate Retreats: Due to low attendance, the senate EC has decided to discontinue the monthly format. Instead, we plan to have a single retreat/social event after the final senate session in May.

Faculty Topic Submissions: In lieu of monthly informal retreats, the EC is discussing ways to enable senators to submit ideas, questions or topics of concern anonymously. Depending on the topic, the EC will assign them to the relevant committee or find other ways to address and resolve the issue. Items of particular importance will be shared

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with the provost's office. We anticipate having a feature on the senate home page that will allow you to do this anonymously.

Rethinking Race Panel Discussion: The EC was contacted by the Rethinking Race organizing committee about our interest in promoting a panel on the student perspective on diversity at the University of Akron. The panel is oriented towards faculty, administrators, staff and contract professionals and will be held February 28th.

In other business since December: changes in Graduate Council representation; ways to allow more timely access to the monthly Chronicle; creating a "culture of yes" at UA. And, the provost shared that universities are exempt from the state government TikTok ban so UA TikTok accounts should be active again.

President and Provost did not attend the meeting. Gwen Price the vice provost was present on provost's behalf to answer questions. She mentioned more formal discussion coming soon regarding ChatGPT.

In committee reports, APC brought a rule change for academic reassessment for discontinued courses at the UA. It was approved unanimously. CRC requested approval for 38 program and 69 course proposals. They were approved.

AAUP representative reported that a day in the life of a faculty member with BOT member is coming this semester.

Grad Council representative reported on: Evaluation of GAs, TAs and their titles and work, corporate co-advisor in industry being discussed, provisional term for graduate admission being discussed, ELI and FERPA training will be moving to Admissions office, training to become mandatory, and Diamond Women's program got 25 members this semester, most ever.

GSG representative reported on centralized resource for graduate resources at UA. They were working with USG to reach out to UAPD regarding safety walk that night, they are also working on SpringFest planning and Life awards.

USG representative reported on: USG elections, Student Trustee application is open and will stay open until March 6, hosting the Ohio Student Govt Summit and bringing 12 student govt associations to campus, looking into doing another mental health survey for campus, Planning Diversity panel during Rethinking Race event. Finally, it was mentioned that SpringFest is just around the corner.