

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting January 23, 2020 Minutes
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on **January 23, 2020** by President Dan Sheffer at 10:00am.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Present.: Jo Ann Collier, Bob Grandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Carl Lieberman, Laura Moss Spitler, Tom Nichols, Neal Raber, Pam Rupert, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, , Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Diane Vukovich, and Tom Vukovich. **Excused:** Cathy Edwards.

III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the December 5, 2019 meeting were approved as corrected. Bob Blankenship moved to “excused”, treasurer report heading of month corrected from December to October and account expenses corrected to \$731.73.

IV. Treasurer’s Report. The treasurer’s reports for November and December were accepted as given by John Heminger who reported income was from dues, luncheon proceeds and soup and chili event; expenses included postage, soup and chili event expenses, Aramark Catering and December luncheon entertainer.

November 2019	AUAR Account		Petty Cash		Total Funds
Initial Balance	10,173.80		237.49		10,411.29
Income	934.00		0		934.00
Expenses	518.14		100.00		618.14
Final Balance	10,589.66		137.49		10,727.15
November 2018 Final Balance	10,348.65		300.00		10,648.65
December 2019	AUAR Account		Petty Cash		Total Funds
Initial Balance	10,589.66		137.49		10,727.15
Income	379.00		130.00		509.00
Expenses	414.15		21.98		436.13
Final Balance	10,554.51		245.51		10,800.02
December 2018 Final Balance	10,271.74		292.04		10,563.78

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V. Corresponding Secretary. No report this meeting

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs Tom and Diane reported:

- February 2020 – Golden Age of TV, \$85 fee
- March 11, 2020 – President Miller in the Ballroom
- April 2020 – Japan with Diane, Tom and Ed
- April 24, 2020 – Road trip to Youngstown. Price TBD (\$65-70 per person), Bus is \$800.00. Itinerary:
 - Pick up Martin Center
 - Butler Institute of Art
 - Historical Center Industry & Labor
 - Smoky Hollow Lunch Buffet
 - Arms Family Museum
 - Hot Cookie or pick up a cookie
 - Maestro Pietro Wine & Cheese
- May 15, 2020 – Lobster & Suds – Zwisler Hall
- November 6, 2020 – Soup and Chili at Goodyear Park. Rent is \$175 so will need to raise price from \$5 to \$8. Martha Vye motioned we raise, Laura Spittler Moss seconded. Passed.

B. Membership. Mel Vye reported:

Membership as of January 2020	
New (comp)	158
Active (paid)	286
Inactive (unpaid)	23
Total on Books	467

.C. Political Action. No report this meeting.

D.. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported:

- OPERS, one of the Ohio retirement systems, will drastically cut health care benefits for its retirees. The monthly allowance paid to retirees with Medicare will drop considerably. For retirees without Medicare OPERS will eliminate their health care plan. They will give a subsidy to those members so they can buy their own health insurance on the open market. OPERS probably has a considerable number of retirees without Medicare. When this takes effect those OPERS retirees without Medicare will see a considerable decrease in their spendable income. The University of Akron has few if any retirees who are OPERS member. But this action could portend other retirement systems following the same route. We must stay alert.
- Retiree dependent insurance – Caremark is the pharmaceutical manager for Retiree Dependent prescription coverage. Caremark would very much like to push all its members into purchasing their prescriptions from CVS or by mail.

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Once again, we got a call from our retail pharmacy saying “insurance won’t pay for refills” which is not true. They won’t pay until you call them and tell them you wish to stay with your retail pharmacy. You need to call the number on your Caremark card and tell them you want to “opt out” of what they are offering. They will try to talk you out of opting out by telling you that money can be saved. If you use a retail pharmacy other than CVS, you will receive this call once a year. Just tell them you want to “opt out” and Caremark will allow you to continue to use the retail pharmacy of your choice.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar reported on the December 2019 Faculty Senate meeting:

Chair Salga called the meeting to order. In her remark she mentioned of two rule changes that were presented by APC. One defined the term “Transfer student” and the other established a time line for change of grade request. She also mentioned 22 course proposals and three program proposals that were brought forward by CRC. She reported a request from Graduate Council that approved a process to establish pathways from a Bachelor’s degree to a Master’s degree that allowed students to take nine graduate level courses in their undergraduate program, at the undergraduate rate that can be applied to the students’ graduate program. She reported that president Miller supported the five items approved by the senate at November meeting. She finished her remark by reporting that LinkedIn learning which is a collection of online training courses for many different topics is coming to UA on the following Monday. She wished everyone happy holiday season.

President Miller in his remark thanked members of BOT who were attending the meeting. He said he has received briefings on all parts of strategic plan. It has gone back to the Deans to figure out what they thought was important. The best of 3 years plan will be picked and handed off to strategic work group. A draft will be ready by Mid January to begin campus discussions. He said enrollment group is also making headway. That will come out in January as well. He said he has met with CAS staff and will try to get to the other units as well.

Interim Provost Urgo in his remark raised a couple of questions. One was: what is going on with summer school? Why the University is not generating revenue on that? He discussed possibilities for improvement. The second was: What is Admission doing for recruiting and enrolling students? He said we need faculty to be on board. They have to help Admission in convincing potential students that UA is a good choice. He said he has been thinking about student success and described students who take a developmental course for a particular program. They do not perform well in it. They decide to change their program but can never get out of that course. He talked about the need for some parachute classes that students get into and realize they are going to fail and another course section is created to give them a parachute out. He said he liked the Admission under special circumstances that was introduced by APC last month and criticized the 60 credits that is required for a transfer student to complete at UA in order to be considered for honor’s graduation. He thinks 60 are too many.

In committee reports, the resolutions brought by APC, CRC, and Graduate Council were adopted. CCTC presented a written report. Finally USG and GSG presented their activities since last semester.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan will update Board list.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported figures available from Sarah Chapman on Scholarship: \$122,109 end of December 2019. Recent gifts were \$90 in November, \$20 in December and \$500 in January. Current rate of return is 4.2%.

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H. Newsletter. Pam thanked everyone and turned over to Martha Vye. Bob Gandee will organize the obituaries for the newsletters.

VII. Old Business. Joanne motioned to approve Martha Vye to fill at large position of Loren Hoch, Neal Raber seconded. Motion passed.

VIII. New Business.

- A resolution was made to recognize Pam's contributions as the Public Relations Chair (newsletter coordinator) and board member. Carl put forth resolution, Ali seconded. Resolution passed.
- Nominating committee of at large members, Ed Lasher, Tom Nichols and Laura Moss Spitler was appointed. Positions to become vacant include Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Public Relations (Martha Vye agreed to serve), Members at Large (Bob Gandee and Mel Vye agreed to serve) and Faculty Senate Representatives (need 2).
- Carl mentioned faculty discounts. The UA BOT rules list all retiree benefits. Linda and Dan will put a notice together for members.
- Dan presented a plaque of recognition to Pam.

IX. Adjournment at 11:10am by President Dan Sheffer.

Respectfully submitted:

Cathy Edwards, Recording Secretary as taken by Rita Klein

**Next meeting will be February 27, 2020
Alumni Conference Room, InfoCision Stadium 10:00am**