

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting June 18, 2020 Minutes
Held via Zoom**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 10:00am by President Dan Sheffer.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending via Zoom or phone: Jo Ann Collier, Cathy Edwards, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Ed Lasher, Laura Moss Spitler, Tom Nichols, Neal Raber, Dan Sheffer, Linda Sugarman, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Diane Vukovich, Tim Lillie (new 2020-22 member), Bob Gandee, and Carl Lieberman.
Absent with notice: Tom Vukovich

III. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the May 21, 2020 meeting were approved as corrected. The Newsletter conversation with Bob and Sharon Gandee was for the “conversation feature” not “deaths”.

IV. Treasurer’s Report. John Heminger’s May 2020 treasurer’s report was accepted as submitted. Expenses included postage and printing. The hold on \$800 for the bus trip has been released.

May 2020	AUAR Account		Petty Cash		Total Funds
Initial Balance	9,162.81		254.40		9,417.21
Income	0		0		0
Expenses	144.03		0		144.03
Final Balance	9,018.78		254.50		9,273.18
May 2019 Final Balance	8,685.26		292.04		8,977.30

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman sent a sympathy card to John Bee upon the death of his wife; Bob Gandee reported that Marvin Moore (?) passed away. Carl Lieberman reported that Robert Jones (History) passed away.

VI. Committee Reports.

G. Scholarship. Carl Lieberman reported current assets are down. We have a little over \$106,000. The committee is recommending three people for scholarships: Christina Berube, (\$2,500 for academic year), Mikayla Brown (\$1,250 for fall 2020) and Emily Taylor (\$1,250 for fall 2020). The recommendations were accepted.

A. Programs: Diane Vukovich reported: They will contact previously identified fall speakers to see if they can use Zoom for their presentations.

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B. Membership: Mel Vye reported 37 new members, 445 active members, and 22 inactive members for a total of 504 members.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee had no report. He is not sure when the OCHER meetings will resume.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported:

As most know on May 29, 2020 the University of Akron Board of Trustees voted to end Retiree Dependent health insurance for all non-bargaining unit members as of December 31, 2020.

The University sent out a letter on June 2, 2020 to 322 non bargaining Retiree Dependents telling them that their retiree dependent health insurance will be terminated on December 31, 2020

The 95 Retiree Dependents that did not receive this letter were the dependents of those who were actually in the bargaining unit at the time of their retirement. The university has classified faculty Retiree Dependents whose spouse or parent retired before there was a union as non-bargaining. The union(s) will negotiate for the 95 who are classified as bargaining unit members.

We need to emphasize to all those who will lose their retiree dependent insurance that they will need to find new insurance that starts January 1, 2021.

Open enrollment for most plans starts during October or the beginning of November. Retiree Dependents over the age of 65 on Medicare should find it fairly easy to get a new plan assuming that they want more coverage than Medicare alone offers. Retirees over 65 on Medicare should be able to find a plan that is not much more costly than what they have now, but may be limited in their choices of providers. If Retiree Dependents choose a plan that includes Medicare part D (prescription coverage) or get Medicare part D separately they need to present the University letter stating they had credible coverage. If the Retiree Dependent does not present the credible coverage letter, they will be assessed a considerable penalty.

Retiree Dependents under the age of 65 must find new plans in order to have medical insurance coverage. Those Retiree Dependents under 65 will have a much harder time finding affordable insurance. If Retiree Dependents over 65 do not have full Medicare coverage, we hope they are participants in a State plan, otherwise it will be very difficult and very expensive to find a plan.

The last time I had information, we were told there were 9 individuals who were over 65 and not eligible for full Medicare.

Since many of the retiree dependents have never changed insurance plans, I will include an article in the next newsletter giving some ideas about what retiree dependents should do when losing their University Coverage

Unfortunately, the University offered Retiree Dependents no help in finding new health insurance.

While the actions of the Board of Trustees may have negligible effects for many, for some these actions will be consequential, perhaps even life threatening.

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E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar reported:
Special Senate Meeting May 22, 2020

On May 22nd there was a special senate meeting to discuss a new structure for the University drafted by the deans. The purpose was to modify the draft as a result of substantive discussions with faculty senate and other shared governance bodies. Everybody from campus was able to participate in the meeting via WebEx. At one point I realized almost 200 were logged in. The executive committee of the senate prepared a summary of the key consensus items from the meeting discussions. A copy of that was sent to AUAR Board members by an email from Dan. There were a few comments that were not included in the summary and worth it to mention. Prior to the meeting faculty were asked to respond to a Brightspace page individually. The administration did not create a situation where units/ departments could have productive conversations among themselves regarding their position in the draft. Although the college of polymer science and polymer engineering as a group requested to form a school with an administrative person that reports to the provost. Many participants spoke in favor of this request and is reflected in the summary. Even people from college of engineering agreed that it is not a good idea to include polymer science and polymer engineering in the college of engineering. However in the final decision made by the BOT, PSPE is included in the college of engineering. Other than this, most of the discussions in the meeting were about personal opinions rather than prior official group consensus. No vote was taken during the meeting or prior to the meeting regarding the consensus items in the summary. Throughout the meeting two questions were asked repeatedly. One was, how the students benefit from this restructuring? The other was, how much the university saves from this restructuring? There were no answers for these questions. It would have been nice if at least one dean was present to explain or defend their original draft.

Proposed restructure from special faculty senate meeting:

1. STEM College
 - Although senators and faculty who attended as guests expressed a variety of viewpoints regarding the creation of a STEM College, several senators raised concerns about the limited opportunities for discussion in the various affected units. Chair Saliga stated that the senate body wishes to table the discussion for now given the limited time for units to explore this option and to consider the idea further in the future.
2. Math/Statistics
 - Several senators expressed concerns about moving Mathematics and Statistics to the College of Engineering. There was limited time to build consensus on the topic. Therefore, we recommend that Math/Statistics remain in BSAS. We can discuss moving Math/Statistics to a STEM College in the future. .
3. CAST merger
 - This is a very complex unit. Senators expressed concerns about dismantling CAST and some departments eliminated from the chart (e.g. AGTS), with no clear understanding of savings accomplished.
 - Several senators expressed interest in merging Wayne with CAST given the similar mission.
 - Guests who spoke about DSES agreed with the provost recommendation that DSES move into CHP.
4. Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics
 - Senators and guests presented compelling arguments that the Cybersecurity program should be housed in CIS in the College of Engineering, given that it is a computing degree, and the existing relationships with employers in this area. Senators strongly supported Cybersecurity staying with CIS to best serve the students in the program, and to continue to build on the success of this program.

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5. Polymer Science
 - Senators from PSPE proposed a structure of a School of PSPE with one administrator reporting to the provost office, which would accomplish similar savings to the dean's proposal of an Institute and retain the reputation of Polymers.

6. Wayne College
 - Many questions were raised regarding Wayne Campus structure, such as main faculty involvement in courses at Wayne, online course offerings, and assessment practices. The senate did not address the merit of changing the structure of Wayne from a college to a branch campus except in earlier discussions about merging CAST and Wayne.

7. College of Education
 - Senators raised questions whether discussions of moving the LBJFF College of Education to BCAS occurred in BCAS, and it seems there wasn't any. Overall feedback seemed positive regarding moving College of Education to BCAS.

There were questions about how much money this proposal will save, and there was a general sentiment that any changes must not damage academic programs.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan reported he is working on end and beginning of the year documents. They will be posted to the website when complete.

H. Newsletter. Editor Martha Vye reported that Tony Fawver will remain our UA contact for the newsletter. Ed Lasher sent information on "past events" in case we need to fill space.

VII. Old Business.

-The membership survey will be updated to reflect "new" ways of doing things online.

Discussion ensued on various additions/deletions and changes. See draft below.

-The group agreed to no board picture for the Newsletter this year.

-An article will be in the newsletter about UA Reorganization and AUAR -. Jo Ann Collier recommended we make sure to point out "the good news" about AUAR activities on behalf of retirees as well as support of students.

VIII. New Business. None.

IX. Adjournment Jo Ann Collier moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 11:08am.

Respectfully submitted:
Cathy Edwards, Recording Secretary

Next meeting will be August 27, 2020 at 10:00am via Zoom

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- Meeting Schedule for 2020-21: August 27, 2020; September 24, 2020; October 22, 2020; December 3, 2020; January 28, 2021; February 25, 2021; March 25, 2021; April 22, 2021; May 27, 2021; June 24, 2021 (Photos of the 2021-2022 board will be taken at the June 24, 2021 meeting).

AUAR Survey – DRAFT

It has been more than 8 years since our last AUAR member survey. We would like to determine how we are serving your needs and what changes and additions we should consider.

We value your opinions, please answer the following questions:

_____ If in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our in-person meetings have to be cancelled, I would be able to attend virtual luncheon meeting presentations and workshops that would be offered to our members on-line using Zoom.

If social events are allowed to take place on campus and you live outside of the Akron area and cannot attend activities, in-person, due to distance, indicate here and skip questions 1, 2 and 3.

_____ I live outside the Akron area and cannot attend AUAR sponsored events in person.

1. Monthly luncheons

On June 10, Dan Sheffer used ZOOM to present a travelogue on his trip to South America. Over 30 AUAR members attended via computer. If in response to the COVID-19 pandemic our September through December meetings are held on-line vial ZOOM would you attend? ___ Yes ___ No

In the event that we are allowed to meet in-person for the luncheons: I attend at least 2 lunches per year ___ Yes ___ No

Please rate the lunches. 4 = excellent, 3 = good, 2 = fair, 1 = poor

A. Variety of speakers.....A. _____

B. Cost of lunches (\$14 in 2019 - 2020).....B. _____

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C. Menu Selections.....C. _____

D. Quality of Food.....D. _____

E. Convenience of location.....E. _____

2. Special Events (examples are: Soup & Chili Supper, sports events, road trips, brunch & plays, Lobsters & Suds)

I have attended AUAR special events ____ Yes ____ No

Do you have any suggestions related to special events?

3. AUAR sponsored Retirees Workshops.

I would be interested in attending a conference to address retiree issues and concerns.
____ Yes ____ No

Topics of interest to me. Please indicate High, Medium or Low interest (H,M,L)

____ Volunteer Opportunities

____ Financial Issues

____ Use of technology (computers, smart phones, tablets, social networking, etc)

____ Work in retirement and new careers

____ Educational opportunities in retirement

____ Adjusting to retirement

____ Health

____ Other areas. Please list

4. What suggestions for luncheon topics and speakers should AUAR consider? Please list contact information, if possible.

5. What topics and concerns about Retirement, The University of Akron, Ohio State Retirement Systems or other subjects would you like AUAR to address in their Newsletter and other communications?

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Change or Omit?

6. We have attempted to keep our dues at a low level (\$12). Our expenses have increased. Would a slight dues increase affect your membership?

____ Yes ____No

7. Use the following space for any suggestions or comments you have to improve AUAR serving your needs and to list any activities or changes in activities you would like AUAR to offer.

8. What items of interest would like to see on the AUAR website? (The website may be accessed at: www.uakron.edu/AUAR)

Please complete and return by _____ to Dan Sheffer at sheffer@uakron.edu or mail to 21 Melbourne Ave., Akron, OH 44313.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The 2020-2021 AUAR luncheon meeting dates have been changed to the following Wednesdays: September 16, October 7, November 18, December 16, February 17, March 17 and April 21.

Thank you for your participation in this survey.