

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

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

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending: Connie Heldenfels, John Heminger, Rita Klein (on Zoom), Dan Sheffer, Harvey Sterns (on Zoom), Dick Steiner, Tom Nichols, Ali Hajafar (on Zoom), Carl Lieberman, Mary Schadle, Mary Verstraete, Tom Vukovich, Bob Gandee, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, Linda Sugarman, Cathy Edwards
Absent: Diane Vukovich, Laura Moss Spittler

III. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 23, 2022 Executive Board meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. Treasurer's Report. John Heminger reported:

February 2023

UA Account income: membership dues \$492.00; luncheon proceeds \$305.00
UA Account expenses: Aramark Catering \$504.12
Petty Cash income: luncheon proceeds \$200.00
Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$10,182.01*	\$195.38	\$10,377.39*
Income	\$797.00	\$200.00	\$997.00
Expenses	\$504.12	\$0.00	\$504.12
Final balance	\$10,474.89*	\$395.38	\$10,870.27*
 Final Balance			
February 2022	\$8,390.37	\$243.99	\$8,634.36

* These include dues payments for future years.

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman reported that she sent a Get Well card to John Miller and she passed around a card to be signed for JoAnn Collier.

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VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs:Chair Tom Vukovich reported that we have one more luncheon this year and the speaker will be Mark Gerberich who will talk about “The Impact of Akron, Ohio on a Young Man from Lebanon, PA”

Dates for the 2023-2024 luncheons have been set (Sept. 20; Oct. 18; Nov. 15; Dec. 20; Feb. 21; Mar. 20; April 17) however the costs and locations are yet to be determined.

Lobster and Suds is scheduled for 5/19/23 at the Hampton Ridge Party Center. Tom reported that we made money in the past on the event but last year we lost \$207 because of the rising price of the hall. He reported also that he is looking into various locations for the lunches including The Venue on Tallmadge Circle.

The April Road Trip may still occur and suggestions of the Hall of Fame Village, Zoar and Amish Country were suggested. It was also suggested that a fundraiser be held to raise additional funds for the scholarships. Derby Downs was suggested.

B. Membership. Chair Mel Vye reported that we have 206 paid members and 38 life members. The ability to renew membership will include an option to pay dues electronically. A link will be sent out along with the membership form for those who wish to continue paying by check.

C. Political Action. Dan Sheffer reported that the OCHER meeting was held via Zoom. He mentioned that the retirement fund did lose money (3.03%) during the bank issues in Silicon Valley. A vote of confidence was taken for the director with a 5 for and 5 against.

Dan will send Newsome’s report on the meeting to the AAUR Board via e-mail. Many members only concern seems to be the COLA regardless of any long-term damage such actions would cause.

A discussion of the Regional Conference ensued. Questions as to how many people would attend, should it be in person or on Zoom or, most likely, a combination of the two. The remote portion could be open to retirees from across the state. Harvey stated that we need to include state legislators.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman had no report. Members indicated they had received the email about the Multifactor Authorization requirement.

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E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar submitted his report on the Senate Meeting of March 2, 2022 via e-mail and it is attached to the end of these minutes. He commented that there were a large number of curriculum changes.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan reported that he is still waiting for the last few sets of minutes to be uploaded.

G. Scholarship. Scholarship Chair Mary Schadle reported that dramatic changes to the scholarship system at UA have recently been approved. All recipients of all Endowed and Named Scholarships will now be selected by a University of Akron Scholarship Committee and not by individuals or colleges or departments. This committee will also be responsible for sending and receiving any information from the scholarship applicants/recipients. Scholarship deadlines will likely be moved up to February or March. After some highly concerned conversation, it was suggested that we invite a development person to the next Board meeting to answer questions.

Board Members have been asked to review the wording of our AUAR scholarship to ensure the wording/language is correct.

H. Newsletter. Martha Vye reported that the next newsletter is in progress and if the board had any info they wished to see in the newsletter to please send it her way.

VII. Old Business.

The Nominating Committee reported that the following individuals have been nominated for the associated positions listed below:

President- Elect	NONE
Secretary	Mary Verstraete
3 At-Large Members	Tom Nichols Cathy DeBose Richard Milford

An e-mail of this slate needs to be e-mailed to the membership to ask for additional nominations. If no additions are received, the slate can be approved by acclamation.

VIII. New Business.

a. A General Meeting will be held at the next Luncheon and a Motion will be presented to raise Membership Dues to \$15/year.

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- b. Mary Verstraete suggested that a special Membership Meeting be held to discuss ways to recruit new members. It was also mentioned that retirees who leave mid-year do not receive any information from AUAR
- c. Someone asked if the Founder's Day Celebration was still held and if we could speak at that event.
- d. A suggestion was made to provide an option to opt In/Out of receiving a paper/mailed newsletter as a way of saving some money.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

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

**The next meeting of the 2022-2023 year is scheduled for April 27, 2023 at
10:00 am in-person at the Infocision Board Room**

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Faculty Senate Meeting March 2, 2023

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remark she told senators that during the meeting they will be asked to recommend the dissolution of the Interdisciplinary Council and approve the formation of a senate Ad hoc Interdisciplinary Committee. She said, “earlier this week, as part of the Rethinking Race event, a group of students gave a panel discussion on their perspectives regarding diversity at the University. Moderated by Undergraduate Student Government President J.P. Garchar, this was the first-time faculty have heard from students in this way, and she found their suggestions to make our community more inclusive for all enormously helpful. For those who couldn’t be at the event, she offered a few of their suggestions:

- Please respect your students' pronouns.
- Maintain high standards and enforce deadlines. Students appreciate the structure and recognize that it helps them prepare for their careers.
- Imposter syndrome is real, be sure you communicate to your students that they belong here. TAs can help with this, ask them to provide support and encouragement to students who might be too intimidated to approach you directly.
- Office hours help with comprehension of subject matter. Panel participants requested reminders and encouragement to come to those throughout the semester and not just on the first day of class.
- Demonstrate empathy. Connect with your students as fully rounded human beings who have a life beyond your classroom. Students reported that those kinds of interactions with their faculty were fundamental to their sense of inclusion at the University.
- Panel participants noted that pre-Covid, they saw more faculty at events outside of class time and expressed a wish to see you at these again.
- As passionately as you feel about your class, understand that yours is just one of five or six classes a student is taking, as well as holding down a job and trying to integrate into campus life through extracurriculars. They are juggling a lot.
- When asked how faculty can help students not fall through the cracks, it was recommended that you encourage students to get involved in extracurriculars, particularly if they are related to their area of study in any way.

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- Freshmen and sophomores often need help connecting with each other. The panel noted that group activities in class are an excellent way for them to find study partners and make friends.

- When asked for ideas about improving class participation, the students said that while participating can be stressful, they know it's vital to their success. They suggested that faculty form small discussion groups who would then report to the larger group as a way to help them feel safer sharing their perspective".

Executive Committee reported that, The EC met with Provost Wiencek and Senior Vice Provost Price. they discussed the impact of the Workday transition on faculty searches, ways to support quality teaching at UA, and the role of shared governance in ensuring continuity of initiatives with employee turnover. A senate topics submission button has been added to the senate webpage to allow senators to submit questions, suggestions, or concerns related to the academic mission of the University. The EC met with Dr. Seher and Dr. Behrman to discuss the Interdisciplinary Council and brings a motion today to establish an ad hoc committee.

Provost Wiencek in his remark said that he has learned a lot from senator's questions and ideas. He said he continues to see that traditional patterns are changing and evolving, seeing that confirmations are up which is a key indicator of fall, but applications are struggling a little bit. He said, Internal and recruiting going well, last year at this time we were up in applications but hit problems with international problems. McKellips is working to smooth out issues we encountered last year. Visa and such. He thanked everyone for their continued engagement, this season is so important for our students, their interactions with us are critical at this time. If you have questions don't be afraid to contact Kim Gentile or Steve McKellips. Enrollment management are working hard to revitalize our system, more broadly accessible piece of software coming and being able to contact students easier. We also are working on the WorkDay implementation on the student side along with Ron, workday has been hard on all of you and hard on our finance and HR teams as well, but they are doing a good job and getting us across the key areas.

Dallas has been very good about engaging folks in the budget process and getting accustomed to the university is a process and Budget office has been meeting with different entities on campus, to see how they are doing and if there is anything coming that they know about. Assumptions for the next year coming together now and mapping out a strategy and determining relative expense.

Facilities built 8-10 years ago still impacting budget. We are focused on work to do. During my forum in my hiring process I spoke about setting up process to move money around and the academic investment committee is a key partner in this process and I'm working with them, as well as the UC B & F committee, will talk about that if you have questions.

Thank you to Janet Klein and APC and their partnership on working on issues. We'll find a way to make transfer work and knowing that they are a key part of enrollment for

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us, we're trying to figure out the problems and make changes that are well informed with guardrails and quality education as guide.

In Committee reports, CCTC reported on HDMI cord situation in classrooms and faculty laptops. CRC brought 31 program and 45 course proposals for approval. They were approved. AAUP representative reported that, BOT spend a day with faculty is planned. Also, she said save the date 8/17 for Rubber Ducks game. Graduate Council brought a motion updating the University rules for full time Grad students. It was approved.

Research Council reported that, there is a strong voice against taxing research dollars. While part of the grants goes back into the general fund, the formula should think about costs and potential costs without taxes.