

The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting May 23, 2024 Minutes
Held in person and Zoom

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on May 23, 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, Richard Milford, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Kathy DuBose, Tom Vukovich, Diane Vukovich, Rita Klein, Dan Sheffer, Carl Lieberman

Absent: Connie Heldenfels, Cathy Edwards, Mary Schadle, Tom Nichols, Richard Steiner, Richard Milford

Harvey noted that John Heminger will be stepping down from both the Treasurer position and the Board.

**The minutes will reflect the numerical order of the Agenda, however, Linda and Martha presented their reports first during the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes: One correction was identified; Carl Lieberman was listed as both in attendance and absent – he attended on the phone. Ali Hajjafar moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Dan Sheffer seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Harvey thanked John for his 6 years of service to the Board as Treasurer. Tom Vukovich reported that checks for the road trip and the OCHER meeting have been deposited. We still need to cut a \$250 check to the book scholarship winner from Black, Brown and Beyond.

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

April 2024

UA Account income: membership dues \$150.00; luncheon proceeds \$447.00, OCHER event \$435.00.

UA Account expenses: Aramark Catering (April lunch) \$431.65,
Aramark Catering (OCHER event)
\$1019.69 = \$480.12 + \$539.57.

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

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	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$11,129.45*	\$152.48	\$11,281.93*
Income	\$1,032.00	\$0.00	\$1,032.00
Expenses	\$1,451.34	\$0.00	\$1,451.34
Final balance	\$10,710.11**	\$152.48	\$10,862.59**
Final Balance			
April 2023	\$10,540.33*	\$195.38	\$10,735.71*

* These include dues payments for future years.

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

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman had no report.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Tom Vukovich reported that we had a good turnout at the April meeting.

The dates are set for next year's luncheons at Quaker Station: 9/18, 10/15, 12/18, 2/19, 3/19, and 4/16.

The Road Trip was a great time and Tom sent the expense report for the trip to John Heminger.

Lobster and Suds will take place on June 7th at 5:00 at the Hampton Ridge Clubhouse. Kline Seafood is handling the purchase of the lobster and Difeo's will be serving the Chicken Marsala.

B. Membership: Chair Mel Vye reported that it is membership renewal time. Mel and Dan will be meeting with Emily to distribute 5 separate letters and emails with member specific information and scholarship reminders to these categories:

- a. Members whose registration has lapsed in the last 2 years
- b. Paid Members
- c. Those who paid for multiple years
- d. Life Members
- e. New retirees since last year

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C. Political Action: Bob Gandee and Dan Sheffer reported that STRS seems to be in chaos, what you read in the newspaper reflects that. The meeting last Wednesday was memorable. The STRS Board elected Rudy Fichtenbaum as Chair of the STRS Board. During that meeting no more was said about COLA, although the STRS Board is considering a one-time payment to current retirees to deal with inflation.

The Attorney General has filed a suit to remove Rudy Fichtenbaum and Wade Steen from the STRS Board.

The next OCHER meeting will be held on Tuesday May 28, 2024 in Columbus.

D. Benefits: Linda Sugarman reported that a parking guide is available to register your vehicle. She suggested we send a note to members to check our website for it.

E. Faculty Senate: Ali Hajjafar sent the minutes from the last meeting to the Board via e-mail. He noted that neither President Miller or President/Dean Nemer attended.

The Appointment of the new President didn't follow any documented procedures, yet no one objected.

F. University & Community Service/Website: No report

G. Scholarship: Interim Chair Rita Klein mentioned that she had spoken to Emily to remind the Scholarship Committee of our requirements. The Committee reported that 3 individuals had been selected:

Eric H. from Aerospace Systems Engineering
Madison H. from Nursing
Isabella B. from Psychology

H. Newsletter: Martha Vyereported that she had a great conversation with Dr. Cynthia Capers for the next newsletter. She reached out to the Audiology Department for a guide to the services they offer and is waiting for a response. The deadline for articles is 8/15/2024.

VII. Old Business.

The Nominating Committee needs to develop a slate of nominees for election. Mary will send Kathy DuBose the parameters for the Committee to follow. A list of luncheon attendees will be sent to the Committee to provide some ideas on who is active with the group.

12 Thank You notes with \$10 gift cards will be sent top the list that Rita compiled.

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VIII. New Business.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 am.

Respectfully Submitted: Mary C. Verstraete, Recording Secretary

The next meeting of the 2023-2024 year is scheduled for June 27, 2024 at 10:00 am in the Infocision Board Room.

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Faculty Senate Meeting May 2, 2024

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remarks she said: You've by now heard that the university must plan reductions in spending for the FY25 budget and beyond. I know this is frustrating news given the prior reductions in force to faculty and staff, cuts to operating costs, and other efforts to decrease our legacy debt burden and structural deficit. We have all worked together to increase enrollment and strengthen retention, so to see the budget remain unstable is dis-heartening. Too little is known at this point for me to give blanket assurances, but I am encouraged by President Miller's stated commitment to work with the academic leadership and Tonia Ferrell, Toni Bisconti and myself to examine all possible approaches to find solutions to our financial problems. Tonia, Toni and I are committed to working with the administration to do what's best for our students and university in as fair and transparent a way as possible. I hate that this news comes right at the end of an academic year. With you, I'm ready to celebrate our student and faculty's accomplishments, wave goodbye to a fresh crop of graduates and take a minute to rest and recharge before diving into a full summer research agenda, or whatever your plans for the summer months happen to be. As frustrating as the recent news is, it doesn't change any of that. Please don't forget what we've been able to accomplish in the past few years in spite of our difficulties. We at The University of Akron are seasoned professionals when it comes to doing a lot with a little and I know that we will get through this. Finally, before we move on to the rest of the agenda, I want to thank each and every one of you for your service to senate. I am deeply appreciative of your engagement and careful consideration of the many items that come through this body for your review. Thank you.

Secretary of EC requested ratification of EC approval of graduation list which received approval. Also, election of Secretary of the senate resulted the continuation of Angela Hartsock as secretary.

Provost Wiencek in his remark gave the following comments:
Enrollment – good year, we got a well-oiled machine. Workday student implementation went smooth. Confirmations up since 2019. Saw FAFSA issues coming and that is putting a wrinkle in our confirmations, but numbers are about where they should be for this time of the year compared with other universities. Figuring out what kind of confirmations we are not getting, and it appears to be the students who rely on FAFSA monies. It's not an unretrievable situation and we are now starting to get FAFSA information, kudos to McKellips for getting Stellic, Slate and other things working by April 1 and we're doing well. Now just getting the process moving. Nationally FAFSA applications are down, Ohio is not doing too badly on that. Out of an abundance of caution, a resolution was passed to commit to close our budget gaps and pay off the debt. We need to be cautious and disciplined. While we are expecting some rough seas, we are used to dealing with this. Our mission is our students and that is how we stabilize our university. Stay positive. We will stay focused on the academic mission. We are going to have to trim some, but we'll make it work.

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In Committee reports, CCTC brought a resolution on classroom technology needs (32 general classroom projectors that need upgrades and audio/cable issues and funding for replacing technology in classrooms). The motion passed. CRC brought 4 program proposals and 30 course proposals for approval. They got approval. GEAC, Program review Committee, University Library, and Ad-hock committee for course evaluation they all submitted written report.

Ad-hock Committee for Interdisciplinary reported: We met several times through the Academic year, reviewed 2017 survey and tweaked and sent it back out. Many challenges and barriers to Interdisciplinary work; many were policies that make it difficult/impossible to do. Many said professional dev opportunities would help increase it and a central hub for Interdisciplinary work; guidelines on how to do it. This past semester we went through the survey results and concluded that we need to draft standard terminology surrounding the idea and to use that to set benchmarks. Next step is to decide if this should be a standing committee and to bring definitions for review. Work with CRC on curriculum assessment. Publicize idea and incentivize it. Anyone who has interest in Interdisciplinary is invited to join the committee.

AAUP representative reported: we are planning a couple of events coming up – next week all faculty event to discuss President communication. Year in general has gone pretty well, in work with UC and FS. We've been processing new release. Elections coming up for secretary and treasurer.

GSG representative reported: April was very busy, wrapping our term. GSG appreciation week. Showcase of graduate work. Attending UA life awards. USG/GSG gave remarks at Remembrance Day. International center work in STUN. Inauguration ceremony tonight. Thank everyone for their support of GSG this year. Megan Frey the new president was introduced. She said I am very excited to be a part of GSG, 3rd year in Psych department. Excited to be a part of GSG. Continue the growth of GSG on UA campus. Nichole Baker was introduced as VP.

USG representative reported: We hosted take back the night, collab with the SAFE Team and Sorority life. International lounge tile exhibit. Course evals incentive of a Zippy cookie for completion. Thank you for the work this year.

UC representative reported: as mentioned before, UC meeting very similar to FS, reports from president provost and standing committees. Heading into next year, if you are interested in getting involved, please do.

In Good of the Order: a senator asked "Seems to be a lot of unrest on other campuses, have we had any student engagement on other campuses? Should we be happy or sad about that?" Provost replied: Try to always be happy. Just debriefed by VP of Student Affairs of students who want to exercise their right to free speech and are doing it in a constructive way.