

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting May 25, 2023 Minutes
Held in person and Zoom**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on May 25, 2023 by President Rita Klein at 10:00 am.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending: Cathy Edwards, Rita Klein, Carl Lieberman, Tom Nichols, Bob Gandee, Dan Sheffer, Laura Moss Spitler, Dick Steiner, Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman, Mary Verstraete, Tom Vukovich, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, John Heminger

Absent: Connie Heldenfels, Mary Schadle, Diane Vukovich, Ali Hajafar

III. Approval of Minutes:

Changes: John Heminger was present and Dick Steiner's name was misspelled. The minutes of the March 23, 2022 Executive Board meeting were approved with corrections.

IV. Treasurer's Report. John Heminger reported:

April 2023

UA Account income: membership dues \$12.00
 UA Account expenses: \$0.00
 Petty Cash income: \$0.00
 Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$10,528.33*	\$195.38	\$10,723.71*
Income	\$12.00	\$0.00	\$12.00
Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Final balance	\$10,540.33*	\$195.38	\$10,735.71*
Final Balance			
April 2022	\$8,310.91	\$277.04	\$8,587.95

* These include dues payments of approximately \$4104 for future years.

V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman reported that she sent a condolence card to the family of John Bee and a Thinking of You card to Marilyn Carrell.

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VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs:Chair Tom Vukovich reported that ~35 people attended the Lobster and Suds event. There was a loss of \$1.64 and Tom will absorb that loss.

B. Membership. Chair Mel Vye reported that we have 206 paid members, 38 of which are Life Members. He is currently updating the membership brochure to include options for on-line payment of dues. He made a motion that we remove any wording regarding the requirement for a vaccine and it was approved.

A discussion ensued regarding howto contact members about renewing. Mary Verstraete made a motion members be contacted in the following way:

- New members would be **emailed** about their complimentary membership and the scholarship fund. The membership brochure will be attached.
- 2023 paid members would be **emailed** to renew and the scholarship fund. The membership brochure will be attached. Those who have not responded/renewed by August will received a **mailed** membership brochure and letter to renew.
- 2022 members who did not renew in 2023 will receive a mailed membership brochure and letter to renew.
- Life members will receive an email reminding them to consider donating to the scholarship fund.

Laura seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dan will discuss with Claudia Kaberline the movement of the database to Development and they will maintain it in the future. John Heminger will continue to keep track of the accounting of membership and the number and names of paid members. Two columns will be included to indicate when a Life member paid for their membership (L23 or L24). Tom and Diane will send the Luncheon notices to Mel and Dan, who will continue to maintain the listserv, and they will send them out.

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Political Action. Dan Sheffer reported that he sent a copy of the G. Newsom's STRS report for OCHER May 2023 board meeting to the AUAR Board that morning. This report emphasized the ongoing shift in the control of the STRS board by the "reformers" who support massive changes in the investment strategy of STRS, e.g., allowing \$60B to be invested with QED and other issues such as annual COLA's for its members. The balance of the STRS Board members was potentially going to shift to the "reformers" this Spring when the Boardmember Arthur Lard's position was up for election. Lard was soundly defeated and it appeared that the STRS Board majority was about to shift to the "reformers". However just before the election results were revealed, Governor DeWine announced he was replacing Wade Steen on the Board, so even if Lard was defeated the QED opponents would retain their 6-5 majority. The statement by Governor DeWine explained that Steen "was viewed as acting as an advocate for a specific investment firm...". Sheffer also reported on the Enact Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act (SB 83) and the deleterious effect that this will have on colleges and universities in Ohio. Sheffer asked if the AUAR Board would approve his sending a copy of the OSU Trustees resolution on SB 83 to the AUAR membership. The board agreed.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman had no report.

E. Faculty Senate. Ali Hajjafar submitted his report on the Senate Meeting of May 4, 2022 via e-mail and it is attached to the end of these minutes. Harvey Sterns mentioned his surprise that no one commented on the move of the Math Department to the College of Engineering.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan reported that he is working with Claudia Kaberline to get the dues payment and scholarship donations added to the website.

G. Scholarship. The Scholarship wording was finalized. Rita reported that there was \$143,258.18 in the Endowed account, \$5,984.88 in the Distribution account and \$2,630.92 in the Award account. This results in \$8,615.80 available for scholarship for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Dan Sheffer made a motion that only \$7,00.00 be used for the upcoming year and the remainder be saved as a carry-over for the following year. This was approved.

Tom Vukovich made a motion to suggest to the Scholarship Committee that 3 Scholarships be awarded from this amount. This was also approved and Scholarship Chair, Mary Schadle will be asked to send this request to Jennifer Harpam, Director of Student Financial Aid.

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H. Newsletter. Martha Vye reported that the next newsletter is in progress and the deadline for any additions is August 15th. She will need a Welcome letter from Harvey Sterns as the new President. This should also be added to the web page..

VII. Old Business.

The results of the Nominations for the Board included 51 to Accept and 1 to Reject. We will continue to search for a President-Elect.

Rita reported that the Founder's Day Luncheon went well, but we were all disappointed that no Deans or Department Chairs attended.

VIII. New Business.

Pictures of the Board, including new officers will take place at the June meeting.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted: Mary Verstraete, Recording Secretary

The next meeting of the 2022-2023 year is scheduled for June 22, 2023 at 10:00 am in-person at the Infocision Board Room

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Faculty Senate Meeting May 4, 2023

Chair Budd call the meeting to order. In her remark, she welcomed senators to the last Senate meeting of the academic year. She thanked APC members who have revised the transfer credit evaluation proposal to address the concerns raised at the April meeting. She said during committee reports APC will bring a proposal to move the Math department to the College of Engineering and Polymer Sciences. She mentioned that faculty in both Math and Engineering have voted to approve the move. Finally, she thanked everyone for their work this year, especially those whose terms are ending. She thanked committee chairs who have worked hard to keep the business of the Senate running smoothly. On behalf of EC, she invited everyone to Thirsty Dog Taproom directly after the meeting for a drink. EC brought a resolution to endorse the faculty congress of Ohio resolution regarding Senate Bill 83. The motion passed without dissent.

Election of EC officers resulted Budd for Chair and Cole for Vice Chair.

President Miller in his remark mentioned of 5 commencement ceremonies and hoped Senators can attend at least one. He acknowledged some of the items related to the University's mission, including a spike of housing as well as student activities, putting right leadership in place to begin to stabilize enrollment and stop the decline. He said HLC accreditation came through with great response, especially complements on our work in improving shared governance. He mentioned of receiving number one ranking in Polymer and number two in Esports. He said we have reengaged with our alumni, increased our connection and offered more opportunities for students and for gifts. He said we have completed recruitment of deans for all 5 colleges. He talked about new partnership with community in art, new academic building coming online, state funded building and should open before the Fall. He said we have brought back U of A magazine, next issue in the fall will be all about students.

Provost Wiencek in his remark repeated the importance of credit transfer proposal and encouraged Senators 'support. He then thanked the Academic Investment Committee and the deans as a leadership team for handling the budget process. He said enrollment is solid, won't know true numbers until students show up.

There is a rebound in international student population. He said scholarships are one area we are working on. He talked about new format of BOT meeting with the public and vigorous debate. Finally, he mentioned the work on strategic plan and the great job that Provost fellows have done in the areas.

In Committee reports, Graduate Council presented changes to Graduate bylaws and were approved without dissent. APC's proposal for Transfer Credit evaluation was approved. APC's motion for an addition to syllabi regarding use of ChatGPT was approved. APC brought some change to the Williams Homers College Curriculum and was approved. APC's motion for Math Department move to the College of Engineering and Polymer Sciences was approved. AIC representative reported that the report of final budget recommendation is sent to the Provost.

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CCTC presented a written report. CRC brought 15 program and 25 course proposals for approval and they all got approval. AAUP representative said they had good year working on MOU, second day in the life with trustee Meyer, and working with Ohio Conference in developing SB 83 testimony. GSG representative reported the election results. The new USG president introduced himself. UC submitted a written report.