

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting September 23, 2021 Minutes
Held in-person**

I. Call to order: The Board meeting was called to order on September 23, 2021 at 10:08 am by President Rita Klein.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending: Tom Nichols, Cathy Edwards, Bob Gandee, Ali Hajjafar, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Laura Moss-Spitler, Dan Sheffer, Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman, Mary Verstraete, Martha Vye, Mel Vye, Diane Vukovich and Richard Steiner

Excused: Jo Ann Collier, Tim Lillie, Tom Vukovich, Carl Lieberman

III. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 26, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed. Correct Institute name in “good of the order” section to Institute for Lifespan Development and Gerontology.

IV. Treasurer’s Report: John Heminger reported:

August 2021

UA Account income: dues \$312.00

UA Account expenses: \$0.00

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	10,272.30	79.40	10,351.70
Income	312.00	0	312.00
Expenses	0	0	0
Final balance	10,584.30	79.40	10,633.70
August 2020	10,626.78	79.40	10,706.18

The treasurer’s report was approved subject to audit.

V. Corresponding Secretary: Linda Sugarman reported that cards were sent to Tom Nichols (condolences), Willy Kollman (Thank you), Diane Lazzarini (Thank you), Marilyn Carrell (Condolences) and John Hawes (Thank you).

VI. Committee Reports:

A. Programs: Diane Vukovich reported : We’ve received menus for future events. Sending a letter in current snail mail distribution for people to alert us to their email or alert us that they should stay on snail mail.

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The annual Soup and Chili Supper event is scheduled at Goodyear Park, Friday, November 5. They have confirmed the place. Diane requested people sign up for soups or chili.

Requested someone step up to take pictures at our events. Richard Steiner volunteered.

Topic for Derek Dailey – Life Lessons Learned From 30 Years in Game Shows.

Topic for President's talk – Post Pandemic Higher Education at U of A.

Bob Gandee suggested we get Jerry Newsom from OSU/OCHER as a speaker in April to discuss issues in STRS. Dan Sheffer to make contact.

B. Membership: Mel Vye reported member totals as: 114 new members (free); 226 renewals (paid) for a total of 340.

C. Political Action:
Dan Sheffer reported from OCHER. No meeting until next week. A report from Jerry Newsome addresses the issue of the STRS audit (Dan will share report once it is reviewed by OCHER). Bottom line is are STRS members going to get a COLA?

D. Benefits: Linda Sugarman had no report at this time.

E. Faculty Senate: Ali Hajjafar reported:

Faculty Senate Meeting September 2, 2021: Chair Budd called meeting to order. In her remark she welcomed everyone to 21-22 academic year. After some housekeeping, explaining rules of engagement for senate meetings, and greetings, she said as new Chair of the senate she has open door policy. Everyone may contact her at any time with any question or concern. She said her effectiveness as Chair comes from understanding Senator's needs and the needs of the students, academic advisors, and faculty that each Senator represents. She mentioned the name of those members of BOT that were attending the meeting and announced that the Board's Chair Gingo will be meeting with the Senate executive Committee on a regular basis this year. She said she believes that shared governance is vital for the health of any university and her goal is to create a forum where students can speak up and share their experience, knowledge, and their insights about the University. She mentioned the positions that were up for election and encouraged everyone to consider running. She said in coming year, Senate has two major tasks in addition to its regular business. The first is to implement the relevant sections of MOU on shared governance agreed on by Akron AAUP and the administration. That increases financial transparency and gives the senate and faculty opportunities to request academic investments. She asked senators to step up to serve in the newly suggested Ad-hoc Criteria Committee that recommends criteria by which programs will be evaluated for academic investment and program review. She asked senators to ratify this ad hoc committee later at the meeting. The second task she said is enrollment. She said the University is at a pivotal moment and must do better at attracting and retaining students to ensure its health. She praised faculty and academic advisors for what they do to make the University of Akron a better place for providing a solid education and providing a strong sense of membership in a learning community. At the end of her remark she said, let's begin campus wide conversation on how we can do better at both recruiting and retaining our students in the future. Let us vigorously support our departmental recruiting efforts and let prospective students know about the learning community they can find here.

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The Executive Committee reported that during the summer, they met six times including meetings with Provost Wiencek, Senior Vice provost Hendrix, and President Miller who attended several of them. Subjects discussed included: Enrollment, Advising and Mentoring, Implementation of MOU on shared governance, and preparation for this year's meetings including this one. She reported that during the Summer EC acted on a few items on behalf of the Senate and they need to be ratified. They are:

1. Approved six course and three program proposals. EC received a BS degree program proposal from Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. EC did not act on that and is brought for discussion and vote to today's meeting.
2. Created the motion: In order to facilitate student advancement toward degrees, Faculty Senate in consultation with OAA endorses the development of a recommended sequence of courses for each program.
3. Created an Ad-hoc Investment Criteria Committee.
4. Approved Summer graduation list.

The Senate at different sections of the meeting approved all of the items.

President Miller in his remark greeted everyone and confirmed that Chair of BOT Gingo will join FSEC and UCEC at various times during the semester. He said Provost and himself would be accompanying him to those meetings. He thanked Chair Budd for her opening comments. He affirmed to the Senate and the University his deep commitment to shared governance. He said as it was said in the campus reunion, we have to do this together. We can disagree but we have to work together for the students. He said Provost and CFO have gone to colleges and other non-academic units to get ideas and listen to everyone about enrollment and the future of the institution. He said invite prospective students to come and start their academic journey at the UA. You will hear from deans about their plans. He said he is very excited about the coming year. He talked about the all day retreat that he and his cabinet had to spend time thinking about positive aspects of the UA and what could be done to support faculty, staff, contract employees, and students. Regarding COVID, he said a new policy with vaccines has been issued and a call center was set up. So far 27 cases on main campus and 2 at Wayne is confirmed. Vaccination estimated rates are: 85% vaccinated, 9% unvaccinated and 5% declined to answer. He said he has met with president Zimfer of Ohio Control Board about real estate and possible legislation. He mentioned of an event on September 9th to thank Akron community's support during the time that the University was closed down.

Provost Wiencek in his remark thanked present and past Chairs of the Senate. He said enrollment numbers are due next week, expected a decline and that has not turned around. COVID has not helped. He said attrition is higher this year than usual. He talked about 7 dean searches that are at play right now. Some have committee and others are forming. Dean of Business, Dean of HHS, Dean of Law, Director for School of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, Director of Center for Business Engagement, Dean of Honor's College, and Dean of School of Nursing. He asked everyone to get involved. He said there are plenty to work on across campus. Advising is a big subject this year. OAA, Student Governments, and Faculty Senate are working to provide higher level of service to students. CFO is putting financials across the campus together. Enrollment has core teams that works on management issues but have asked colleges to put their own together. At the end of his remark, he said all Summit, Stark, and Medina county students have been invited to attend September 11 football game and asked senators if found opportunity to spread the word.

After Provost's remark Senate elections were performed.

In Committee Reports, APC brought a resolution that discontinued the CR/NCR option that was put in place during the height of pandemic. CRC got approval of a BS program in Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. AAUP representative reported that they were busy during the summer with engaging on shared governance with administration, dean searches, and determining accurate workload and then overload. She reported that Akron AAUP arranged a fund raising for RIFd members and each received \$2000. She also talked about some issues that

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they intend to do this year. GSG representative reported that during the summer they updated governing documents, updated website and manuals. Filled all open positions including UC standing committees. USG representative reported that they

were busy filling empty seats and held elections. They were involved with Loc 3 community event. UC representative reported that they concluded the next steps in strategic planning process with Provost and OAA. The process has begun and deans are working on their key actions. A subcommittee undertook revision of bylaws and UCEC is reviewing them. Also UC with the efforts of Ann Bruno organized a welcome back to campus event with Barrio truck.

F. University & Community Service/Website: Dan reported the website is up to date except for actions taken today which will be posted quickly.

G. Scholarship: No chair at this time. Rita read a thank you note from Kurt Ekenstein. Harvey Sterns volunteered to help with scholarship committee.

H. Newsletter: Martha Vye reported that the newsletter was distributed. She is looking for articles for the winter letter. Martha and Jo Ann continue to work on Ed Lasher's picture CDs.

VII. Old Business: None.

VIII. New Business: Sheldon Wrice's presentation at the luncheon brought out some thoughts about helping support his equity and inclusion program. Perhaps we could help with one of his events. Rita asked the group to think about what we could do to help. Rita can reach out to him to see what is needed. A dollar amount of \$500 was mentioned.

Rita shared some scholarship recipient statistics. It was suggested we ask for a more diverse pool of scholarship applicants to choose from each year.

Rita asked for any information we need to include in our general meeting this fall. Get information to her as soon as possible. There will be membership, scholarship, treasurer and program reports.

IX. Good of the Order: Harvey Sterns spoke with Dean of A&S about our interest in recreating the Institute for Life Long Learning, offering some classes or a speaker series. It was well received.

Bob Gandee suggested we offer a conference.

X. Adjournment: There being no further business the, meeting was adjourned at 11:38am.

Respectfully submitted:

Cathy Edwards on Behalf of Jo Ann Collier, Recording Secretary

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Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022:

2021 August 26; September 23; October 28; December 2.

2022 January 27; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 23
(Photos of the board will be taken at the June meeting)