

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting October 26, 2023 Minutes
Held in person and Zoom**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on October 26, 2023 by President Harvey Sterns at 10:00 am.

II. Welcome & Announcements:

Members attending: Harvey Sterns, Rita Klein (Zoom), Connie Heldenfels, John Heminger, Mary Verstraete, Linda Sugarman, Richard Steiner, Robert Gandee, Dan Sheffer, Ali Hajjafar, Richard Milford, Kathy DuBose, Diane Vukovich, Tom Nichols, Mel Vye, Martha Vye

Absent: Carl Lieberman, Tom Nichols, Mary Schadle, Cathy Edwards, Mary Schadle, Tom Vukovich

III. Approval of Minutes: Three corrections were identified : the date in the Header should be September 28; in Political Action, it should read 14%, not 14.4%; and the word “first” should be deleted in the last sentence. Martha Vye moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Diane Vukovich seconded the motion. The Motion was Approved.

IV. Treasurer’s Report. John Heminger reported that the newsletter costs were decreased compared to last year. Richard Steiner moved to accept the Treasurer’s report and Dan Sheffer seconded the motion. The Motion passed.

September 2023

UA Account income: membership dues \$315.00

UA Account expenses: Aramark Catering \$334.95; Print Services Dept.
\$821.34

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$13,145.33*	\$160.38	\$13,305.71*
Income	\$315.00	\$0.00	\$315.00
Expenses	\$1,156.29	\$0.00	\$1,156.29
Final balance	\$12,304.04*	\$160.38	\$12,464.42*
Final Balance			
September 2022	\$9,490.82	\$269.74	\$9,760.56

* These include dues payments for future years.

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V. Corresponding Secretary. Linda Sugarman reported that she sent a “Condolences” card to Kathy Alrubaiy.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Diane Vukovich asked for a Motion to allow for \$150 to be spent on the Holiday luncheon entertainment. Ali Hajjafar made the Motion and Mary Verstraete seconded it. The Motion passed. If anyone has any suggestions for entertainment, please let Tom and Diane know.

The next Luncheon speaker will be Dr. Hillary Nunn. Diane asked if we wanted to collect donations for the Campus Cupboard as we did last year and the Board agreed. Mary will get the list and forward it to Diane. Dan will e-mail the members about bringing donations.

Diane reminded the Board that Soup & Chili was coming up on Thursday November 2nd and we have a sufficient number of people bringing soups and chilis.

Diane also indicated that she and Tom are still looking for speakers for the Spring meetings.

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B. Membership. Chair Mel Vye indicated that the transition to Development is still proceeding well. We currently have 172 paid member and 46 Life members. It was suggested that Mel send a list of members who had paid or were complimentary for 2022-2023 but unpaid for 2023-2024 be sent to the Board members so we can prompt those we know to renew.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee and Dan Sheffer indicated that the next OCHER meeting was the week of October 30th.

D. Benefits. Linda Sugarman indicated that she would be attending the STRS webinar on the new Healthcare benefits on October 30th and would report anything of note at the next Board meeting. There has been some confusion for members regarding the prescription coverage by CVS/Caremark and how it does NOT require members to use CVS pharmacies.

E. Faculty Senate. The report from Ali is attached. There were no questions.

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan will be ensuring that all updated meeting minutes are posted.

G. Scholarship. Mary Schadle was absent and has indicated that she will be stepping down as the Chair of the Committee. A new Chair is needed to contact scholarship awardees and invite them to a meeting and to maintain communications with the University Scholarship Committee. Ali Hajafar suggested that Rita may want to take on this role for the next year. And she accepted the position.

H. Newsletter. Martha Vye thanked all who contributed to the last newsletter and she is beginning to work on the next.

VII. Old Business.

Harvey Sterns sent a list of Gift card recipients to the Board and we will be sending them a \$10 Starbuck card purchased with petty cash directly from Starbucks.

Recruitment of a President-Elect – The Ad Hoc Reference Committee has not yet met to review the By-Laws to determine whether we should have a VP versus a President-Elect, currently a 6 year commitment. Linda was added to the Committee.

Paul Levy was unable to attend this meeting. The next meeting will be proposed and if that doesn't work with his schedule, another time will be proposed.

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Age Friendly Akron/Summit County and Age Friendly University initiatives will be added to the Volunteer section on the AUAR website.

VIII. New Business.

The planning committee for the Retirement Seminar will consist of Tom and Diane Vukovich, Rita Klein, Richard Milford, Dan Sheffer, Bob Gandee and Harvey Sterns.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted: Mary Verstraete, Recording Secretary

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

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Faculty Senate Meeting October 5, 2023

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remark after explaining the rules of engagement at the meeting, she said: I welcome Luke Smith, with us today from the Board of Trustees. Today, the Academic Policies Committee brings a resolution to clarify and increase the scope of the portfolio-based prior learning policy. The impetus for the proposed changes is data showing the significant number of adults in this region who left university to enter the workforce before completing the necessary credits to earn a degree. The policy has been adjusted to include prospective students, including those who are not currently enrolled. Offering these individuals, the chance to have faculty evaluate on the job training or experience as part of their remaining credits may be the nudge, they need to return to complete their degree. As the rationale states, this is a way to link university with community by demonstrating that we value on the job training and experience and have the expertise to translate such experience into curricular content. Currently, many online institutions offer opportunities for credit through prior learning assessment, but they don't offer the rich and supportive university experience that UA does. As the proposal states, the academic department or school determines whether an applicant's prior learning corresponds to course outcomes and demonstrates appropriate academic rigor, keeping oversight for this process with the faculty. Our willingness to evaluate experience for credit will give us a recruiting advantage over other Ohio universities who haven't yet adopted similar strategies. Senate Bill 83 is still an active bill under consideration by the Ohio House Higher Education Committee and has a hearing this Wednesday. It has been revised multiple times, but in the words of Sara Kilpatrick, Executive Director of the Ohio Conference of AAUP, "SB 83 remains a sweeping piece of legislation that proposes an unprecedented level of political interference and micromanagement into the affairs of Ohio's public colleges and universities."

The most recent version of SB 83 includes not only a ban on the right to strike, but also prohibits faculty from bargaining over subjects like tenure, retrenchment, workload and course evaluations. It's clear that the bill seeks to remove any power the faculty have to

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advocate for fair working conditions. At UA, the faculty and administration have worked through the years to create a contract that may not be perfect, but that we can agree on and that meets our particular needs. We've also worked hard to improve shared governance, and while that isn't perfect either, we've made huge strides. Whatever your feelings about unions, we've come too far and accomplished too much as an institution to have that careful work replaced by a one size fits all mandate. Please know that your voice makes a difference, and use it to keep telling our legislators that not only is this bill unnecessary, but it will also make it harder for us to retain and attract the quality faculty we need to advance this institution. I emailed you all a few minutes ago with links to some quick and easy ways to communicate with legislators respectfully and professionally. We know that faculty voices are making a difference, or the bill would have already been implemented. Keep pushing back, keep stating your opposition. I'm pleased to report that Provost Wiencek has enthusiastically agreed to form a joint senate/administration working group to look holistically at improving conditions for the PT faculty. The working group is currently being formed and will likely begin its work in late fall. I hope that together we can create procedures and policies that are fair and transparent, and that will help us keep the talented and hard-working part-time faculty who do so much for our students and this University.

Finally, as mentioned earlier, President Miller can't join us today, but he did ask me to let you know that he is giving his State of the University Address next Tuesday, October 10 in the Student Union Ballrooms. Doors will open at 3:45 p.m., and the speech will begin promptly at 4:15 p.m.

The Secretary of Executive Committee reported: This past month, the work of the Senate Executive Committee included the following three items.

First, to improve the part-time faculty experience, the office of the provost and the senate EC will establish a working group. This group will be tasked with considering the part-time faculty experience from a holistic perspective to identify creative ways to support and reward their service to UA.

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Second, the EC discussed the changes to graduate assistantships and expressed the need for increased communication and clarity around future changes with a focus on the timeline and impacts on faculty.

Finally, the Senate-EC brings the following item for approval: Graduation list approval resolution.

Chair Budd called for debate on the motion; none ensued. The resolution passed unanimously.

Neither President nor Provost attended the meeting, therefore no remark from them. In committee reports, the motion brought by APC regarding the portfolio-based prior learning policy described in the Chair's remark was approved. CRC brought forward the motion to approve seven program proposals and twenty course proposals. With no debate, the motion passed unanimously. CCTC submitted a written report.

Akron AAUP reported: The Akron-AAUP extended thanks to the Board of Trustees and President Miller for the 2% raise which will be reflected in October paychecks. Special election ballots were sent via email. Members should anticipate a Zoom invite from Senator Bisconti for a chapter meeting. Akron-AAUP is hosting a day in the life of a faculty member with Trustee Carter visiting campus; contact Senator Bisconti if you would like to participate. Upcoming events include a liaison meeting, a full chapter meeting, and the day in the life of faculty member.

GSG representative reported: GSG is working on filling executive board and senator positions and is working with the graduate school to plan professional development events.

USG representative reported: USG is busy planning events for the semester including the first-year speaker series, a workshop with the speaker, the student leader summit, UAPD meet and greet, and an internal USG retreat focused on team building. USG continues to focus on recruiting students to committees.

University Council Representatives reported: University Council meeting agendas are similar to those of faculty senate in that we hear reports from the chair of UC, the president of the university, the provost of the university and the standing committees. We also get brief reports from the groups that are represented on UC (CPAC, SEAC,

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FS, Chairs, Deans, USG, GSG). The UCEC is actively involved in the strategic planning process. At the last meeting we elected the Vice Chair, got an update on the strategic plan document being developed by faculty fellows, and heard from Dr. Sangganjanavanich about student mental health. At October's meeting next week all UC committee members are invited to attend to be welcomed to UC.