

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

- I. Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on January 26, 2023 by President Rita Klein at 10:00 am.

Rita introduced Claudia Kaeberlein from the Department of Development to the Board ([ClaudiaK@uakron.edu](mailto:ClaudiaK@uakron.edu)). Rita and Mary S. had met with her previously to update the scholarship document as discussed last month. Claudia felt that the Development Office could assist the AUAR Board with several items including increasing the scholarship endowment, determining who has signed up for membership and when, the newsletter, etc. Everyone who worked at the University has a record in the Development system and a query can determine the information the Board needs and allow us to bypass Human Resources. Harvey made a motion to accept the Invitation by the Department of Development to assist us with all of the aspects of membership, including donations, memberships and dues, as well as help with the newsletter where possible without any cost to us. Mary V. seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

**II. Welcome & Announcements:**

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

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the December 1, 2022 Executive Board meeting were corrected as follows:

Ali was present

The board approved the minutes as corrected.

**IV. Treasurer's Report.** John Heminger reported:

**November 2022**

UA Account income: membership dues \$1230.00; luncheon  
proceeds \$446.50; Soup & Chili  
proceeds \$187.50

UA Account expenses: Aramark Catering \$517.61

Petty Cash income: \$0.00

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

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	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$9,619.70*	\$238.68	\$9858.38*
Income	\$1,864.00	\$0.00	\$1,864.00
Expenses	\$517.61	\$0.00	\$517.61
Final balance	\$10,966.09*	\$238.68	\$11,204.77*
Final Balance			
November 2021	\$9,465.45	\$238.99	\$9,704.44

**December 2022**

UA Account income: membership dues \$264.00; luncheon proceeds \$567.00;  
UA Foundation ACH \$12.00  
UA Account expenses: Aramark Catering \$562.44  
Petty Cash income: \$0.00  
Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$10,966.09*	\$238.68	\$11,204.77*
Income	\$843.00	\$0.00	\$843.00
Expenses	\$562.44	\$0.00	\$562.44
Final balance	\$11,246.65*	\$238.68	\$11,485.33*
Final Balance			
December 2021	\$9,696.66	\$243.99	\$9,940.65

\* These include dues payments for future years.

A brief discussion ensued about raising luncheon fees and/or dues. It was determined that no changes were necessary at this time.

**V. Corresponding Secretary.** Linda Sugarman reported that she sent a Get Well card to Jim Grover and a Thank You for Your Service card to Jo Ann Collier (moved to Erie PA).

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**VI. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs: Chair Tom Vukovich reported that**

- February' speaker will be Mel Vye presenting "Cruising Down The Danube" (Tom and Dick will be absent, so Rita will introduce the speaker and handle getting the nametags and Mary V. will take pictures and write up the talk for the newsletter article)
- March we will hear from Rich Heldenfels
- April's speaker will be Mark Gerberich. As he just resigned as the CEO of the Soap Box Derby, he will now speak on his activities as the Commissioner of the PBA and careers in Sports Management.
- Later speaker will be reached out to in March and April. Several new administrators are being considered.

Tom also reported that he is looking into the costs of a party room and Hampton Ridge for the 5/19 Lobster and Suds event. He is also considering Columbiana County for the Road Trip at the end of April.

**B. Membership.** Chair Mel Vye reported via e-mail, that membership numbers as of 1/18 were 192 paid members which includes 35 Life members.

**C. Political Action.** Dan Sheffer reported that OCHER has not met since the last Board meeting. Dan has asked Jerry Feezel from Kent State University, Marianne Anderson from Youngstown State University and Rodger Govea from Cleveland State University to join him on the OCHER committee to organize the Regional Meeting for this fall. Individuals from STERS and OPERS will be asked to speak.

Bob Gandee reported the a group from ORTA (Ohio Retired Teachers Association) has raised allegations against STRS. An audit has been completed and all allegations were deemed baseless. Dan will resend a summary of the audit to the Board. OCHER will meet again in March.

**D. Benefits.** Linda Sugarman reported that the e-mail migration is proceeding and problems have been recognized by IT.

**E. Faculty Senate.** Ali Hajjafar submitted his report on the Senate Meeting of **December 1, 2022** via e-mail and it is attached to the end of these minutes.

**F. University & Community Service/Website.** Dan reported that everything on the website was up to date. He will change the title for the April Meeting. He noted that 26 e-mails had bounced back from the last mailing and that 24 of them had a .net extension. He will ask Kelly to upload a revised list for the listserv.

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**G. Scholarship.** Mary Schadle reported that the new scholarship document had not been signed yet.

**H. Newsletter.** Martha Vye reported by e-mail that she had ordered 433 newsletters for the last mailing which included 283 members, 30 for Tom Vukovich and 20 for Dan Sheffer to deliver.

**VII. Old Business.**

- i. See **VI. C.** regarding the STRS Regional Meeting
- ii. It was noted that the mailing label on the Winter newsletter included a code to indicate membership status.

**VIII. New Business.**

- i. See **I.** for the discussion with Claudia Kaeberlein
- ii. It was determined that with elections approaching, a replacement for Jo Ann Collier's Member at Large position was not needed at this time. The Nominating Committee was indicated to include Dick Steiner, Mary Schadel and Connie Heldenfels. The positions that require nominations are President Elect, Recording Secretary and 3 Members at Large.

**IX. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

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

**The next meeting of the 2022-2023 year is scheduled for February 23,  
2023 at 10:00 am in-person at the Infocision Board Room**

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**Faculty Senate Meeting December 1, 2022**

Chair Budd called the meeting to order. In her remark, she mentioned that in the informal senate meeting President Miller gave an overview of the master plan for the campus and as the plan is further developed, he will include the Senate in discussion. She said during the meeting you will be asked to vote to adopt the Carnegie Foundation definition for community engagement. The University has numerous programs that engage with our community. As an example, consider the ground-breaking EX(L) Center and the richness it has brought to both our students and community, or the collaboration between the School of Education faculty and the Promise School. Another example is the Art Bomb Bridge whose participants have beautified our city with their gorgeous mural, created in collaboration with area High School students. The Executive Committee reported that they met with Chair of B.O.T Gingo, President Miller, Chief of Staff Levy, and Provost Wiencek. The topics discussed included: The makeup of residential and commuter students, the process for allocation of graduate assistantship, and the ODHE list of recommended program closures and how to integrate this into the normal program review cycle. She reported that they have begun reviewing the status and charge of current senate committees and they voted to recommend to the Senate the adoption of the Carnegie Foundation definition as a guiding framework of community engagement at The University of Akron.

President Miller in his remark mentioned that B.O.T. has asked us this Spring to give them an idea of how we plan to dispose of and/or develop areas on campus. He said we have a master plan, but it is out of date. We will develop a draft document at the beginning of the year, socialize it with campus groups and bring it to B.O.T. in the Spring.

The new plan sets themes of what will happen on campus in the next decade. He announced that Laurel Eni who is our employee has taken over as the new president of interuniversity council. He said he plans to travel across the country to meet with alumni groups (18000 living alumni). Finally, he reminded everybody of student challenges and asked them to be aware that some of the students may need extra encouragement.

Provost Wiencek in his remark, reported that CHHS Dean has been appointed and that they have a strong candidate for the School of Nursing. He said he is working with APC on evaluating the transfer credit process. UC is working on strategic planning.

Regarding enrollment, he said some lag in applications, took some corrective actions and that's closing the gap. He said he feels like we are on track to see flat if not increased enrollment. He asked for applications for a Provost fellow in Modeling and Forecasting by the end of the week. He said Sue Bausch is working on incentivizing the process of research. Finally, he said there are staffing concerns up and down the structure of the University. He said, "I want you all to know we are very aware of it, working with deans and department chairs to respond to these things."

In committee reports, Accessibility, Athletics, and CCTC presented written reports. CRC brought course and program proposals for approval and the AAUP, Grad Council, USG, and UC representatives gave brief reports as well