

Wright State University Retirees Association
Minutes of the Board Meeting of August 7, 2013

Board members present: Abe Bassett, Gary Barlow, Marlene Bireley, Sally Clayton, Peggy Bott, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Rich Johnson, Mary Kenton, Leone Low, Gary Pacernick, Gerry Petrak, Blair Rowley, Jim Sayer, Carol Stevenson, Gail Whitaker and Paul Wolfe

Absent: Amy Hopkins, Rich Johnson, Judy Rose, Lew Shupe and Bob Wagley

President Abe Bassett called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY 2 MINUTES AS AMENDED; UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

REPORTS

President

Facebook: Abe announced the intended formation of a WSURA Facebook page. He is working to enable others to post news and photos.

Speakers: As agreed, future board meetings will be limited to 90 minutes to allow university officials to join us in the Millett Hall Atrium for a 30-minute presentation. This is an opportunity to learn latest developments in the University and for University leaders to become more familiar with the WSURA organization. Our first guest will be COLA Dean Kristin Sobolik, 11:30 a.m., September 4; Soin College of Business and Administration Dean Joanne Li will speak on October 2; Provost Sundaram Narayanan on November 6; Associate Provost Robert Sweeney, scheduled for a January meeting, will be rescheduled. Gerry also suggest that we invite Dan Abrahamowicz, Vice President of Student Affairs, to speak after one of our meetings.

Abe asked for volunteers to serve as hosts/hostesses and introducers for the visiting guests. Mary Gromosiak volunteered to introduce Dean Sobolik; Bob Wagley will introduce Business Dean Joanne Li; and Sally Clayton will introduce Provost Narayanan. Email invitations will be sent out to all WSURA members to encourage them to join us.

Chairs for Standing Committees: Members are being asked to continue their roles as committee chairs. If they would like to find a replacement, volunteers will be needed to assume their responsibilities. Paul Wolfe indicated he would like to hand over the Scholarship committee to someone else, and Marlene Bireley said if anyone would be interested overseeing the Sunshine committee, they may take it (even though she is willing to continue with it).

Parking Permits for board members will soon be mailed directly to home addresses.

Website: An *ad hoc* committee has been established consisting of Bireley, Kenton, Clayton, and Bassett. They will meet on Monday August 19 to begin determining the content for the website.

Vice President

Parking: Jim Sayer met with Director of Parking Services, Rob Kretzer, to discuss better parking options make it easier for retirees to come to campus. Kretzer pointed out retirees may park in the Student Union Visitors Lot, and additional parking spaces in other lots throughout campus. Retirees may also park in Faculty/Staff and student spaces when the visitor spaces are full. Retirees may also obtain a special parking permit online by request to visitorparking@wright.edu.

Alumni Association: Jim and Abe met with Alumni Association Executive Director Greg Scharer to discuss potential collaboration with the retirees, finding Scharer to be receptive. Some of the immediate benefits to the retirees include (1) joining Alumni on extended travel tours such as cruises, (2) obtaining a Wright-Patt Credit Union "Wright State" embossed credit card, (3) sitting in the "Alumni Zone" for a basketball game, (4) use of the Alumni Lounge at selected basketball games, (4) merchant discounts.

Treasurer

Last year's Treasurer, Carol Stevenson, informed the group that next year's budget may be short on funds due to a significant year-end printing and postage expenses reflected on the university's final June 30 Banner report. Our university-funded account now shows a deficit of \$505.85. She stressed the importance of us all trying to get accurate cost estimates for the upcoming year and submit them to Gail as soon as they are known. The University normally reduces the amount of funding for the following fiscal year by the amount overspent in the prior fiscal year.

Communications

Marlene Bireley asked that articles for *The Extension* be submitted no later than Friday, August 16.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: Mary Gromosiak reminded everyone to RSVP for the upcoming HOLA event, *Create your own Fiesta!* no later than Sunday, August 18. The event will be held at Mary's home, beginning at 4:00 pm. She encouraged everyone to join the fun, and to personally invite other WSU retirees they know to join us. A sign-up sheet was passed around for RSVP's and dishes to share. Mary will provide the paper products and beverages, and will be reimbursed up to \$75.00 for the meat, as previously agreed.

She then passed out a copy of proposed upcoming activities: attend the play *Harvey* (a comedy by Mary Chase), followed by dinner at Max & Irma's, Sept. 2, 2:00 pm; Woodland Cemetery Tour on Oct. 9, 10-12 noon, followed by lunch at Coco's Bistro at 12:15; attend the Health & Benefits Fair, Oct. 23, 10-2:00 pm, in the Student Union Apollo Room.

Details regarding The Presidential Lecture Series and the Dining-in events will be announced soon. Also, Mary is trying to arrange a visit to a Dayton Philharmonic practice session followed by a backstage tour. The details are still in the planning stages. She is waiting for the dates being offered for visits; only three of these sessions are offered throughout the year.

Historic Preservation: Gary Barlow gave the oral history report for Lew Shupe. Lew recently conducted two interviews. The first was with WSU'S first registrar, Craig Willis, who also served as the first Dean of University College. He also interview with Marilyn Willis and Lorraine Wagley; both represented the first "Women's Club" held on the Dayton campus. They shared their scrapbook and photographs.

On August 22, he will be interviewing Paul Wolfe and Joe Hemsby.

Library archivist Chris Wydman reminded WSURA that it is time to send minutes and copies of *The Extension* to the archives. The last submission of *The Extension* on file is Issue #61, Winter 2009. Currently, WSURA should retain two years of minutes in the office, and send all previous ones to the archives for storage.

Membership: Gerry Petrak confirmed this year's Health & Benefits Fair would be held on Wednesday, October 23. She asked for approval \$150 for the cost of our booth, and also asked for volunteers to work.

CAROL STEVENSON MOVED TO APPROVE AN EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$150 TO COVER THE COSTS FOR OUR HEALTH FAIR BOOTH, MARY GROMOSIAK SECONDED. MOTION WAS APPROVED AND CARRIED.

Copies of the WSURA membership promotional brochures were distributed. Board members are encouraged to look for creative ideas to entice members to join the association. The message is to tell them about some of our special events and/or activities and encourage them to attend. Hopefully, they will join our association and become involved.

Sunshine Committee: Marlene Bireley said she reviews published obituaries daily. She shared the sad news that Judd Yalkut, a former Art Department employee had passed. She sent our condolences to his family and a card to Amy Hopkins with our best wishes regarding her mother's recent surgery. The good news is Amy's mother is having a successful recovery from a very serious operation.

LIAISONS REPORTS

Athletic Council: Mary Kenton reported that the council doesn't meet during most of the summer; however, they will be meeting later in August.

Library: Gary Barlow said he is still pursuing the possibility of The Friends of the Library co-sponsoring with WSURA to make arrangements for two speakers this year. He will reserve the Library's fourth floor meeting room for these events once a date is set. The best time to get access is 5:00 pm. Gary will speak with Chief Librarian Stephen Foster, about FOTL programs for the year.

International Club: Abe reported for Bob Wagley who was unable to attend today. There are 1400 international students at WSU. The International Office has invited retirees to a Welcome BBQ on Friday Sept 6 at 3:00 pm to meet incoming scholars and students. Gary Barlow suggested we consider interviewing some international students for The Extension newsletter.

Scholarship: Paul Wolfe reported that the Scholarship Committee met and reviewed the applications for our annual WSURA scholarship awards. Six of the applicants met the primary criteria of having a retired WSU relative and at least a 3.0 GPA. The estimated available funds for the awards total \$2,440. The committee recommends that Erin Dorsten and Brianna Wellman each be awarded a \$1,200 scholarship.

PAUL WOLFE MOVED TO APPROVE THESE TWO SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS BE MADE, SECONDED BY DONNA CURTIN. MOTION APPROVED AND CARRIED.

Mary Kenton volunteered to assume the Scholarship Committee Chair position for next year. Paul said he would write a required time line for the Procedures Manual.

OLD BUSINESS

Officers Description Review: Gail Whitaker reported that the subcommittee met briefly to begin the process. Another meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19 to continue the work.

Possible Speakers and Activities: Continuing our quest to find interesting speakers to give presentations. Gerry Petrak suggested Mike Koons who has expertise in emergency preparedness for our homes, a good topic for a brown bag lunch gathering. There is still considerable interest in going on a Calamityville tour. Alumni Affairs may be helpful in setting this up. Gary Barlow and Mary Gromosiak will follow-up on the initiative.

Book Club: Peggy Bott has submitted an article for the next *Extension* to determine interest for establishing a retirees book club.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: **Wednesday, Sept. 4, 9:45 am.** The early start is required for individual and group photographs for the upcoming Extension; COLA Dean, Kristin Sobolik will be guest speaker.

Submitted by Donna Curtin,

WSURA Board Secretary