

**Wright State University Retirees Association
Board Meeting March 5, 2014**

Board Members Present: Abe Bassett, Gary Barlow, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Rich Johnson, Mary Kenton, Leone Low, Gary Pacernick, Gerry Petrak, Judy Rose, Blair Rowley, Jim Sayer, Lew Shupe, Carol Stevenson, Bob Wagley

Absent: Sally Clayton, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, and Gail Whitaker. Paul Wolfe

Guest: Dick Williams

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

The minutes of December 4, 2013 were unanimously approved.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President: Abe Bassett summarized some of the work that he and office assistant, Sarah Spitzer, had done during the three months between meetings and shared the following information:

Announcements

- a. Sally Clayton has decided to not rerun for a board seat.
- b. WSURA has been invited to participate in the University's Staff Development Day this Friday. Gerry Petrak and Abe will be presenting on behalf of WSURA. The presentation will be on the story of the Retirees Association and what one must do to prepare for retirement.
- c. In Florida: Donna Curtin, (Marlene is acting secretary today), Gail Whitaker, Just returned from Florida: Peggy Bott, Paul Wolfe, and Mary Gromosiak
- d. Printing Services has now morphed into the Enterprise Print Services under a six-year contract to Xerox. Clark State and Central State are part of the consortium with Wright State. Printing will be done on campus.

Troubleshooting Office Computer & Telephone

Sarah has been having trouble logging on since last autumn, finally not able to sign on at all. For more than a ten-day period, we dealt with CATS unsuccessfully until a senior technician came to the office to work the computer. We are now normal after determining that the computer problems started last fall when a number of people were given computer access by having individual logons. Those logons have now been eliminated. None of us, including myself, can now use the office computer. However, we can take our sign on to any open computer in classroom, library, or to computer center.

Troubleshooting Mailing Lists.

- a. List Serve, 155 names, including 33 non-members
Email sent to the 33 inviting them to join; one asked to have name removed.
A second email will be sent next week and then names deleted for those who do not respond.
However, Sarah reported that we received last week \$420 in dues in one day, including 4 life members, and 22 annual members.
- b. The missing 175 names have been added to the list serve
- c. 350 email addresses on Office Computer
Sarah and Abe will compare the list serve and office lists to ensure that they are the same.

University Foundation

Conversations with University Foundation representatives:

a. Making online contributions easier to do.

(1) The UF website will be made easier for retirees to make direct online contributions, by featuring WSURA as a major choice. They have agreed to do this as they are in the processing of revamping the web.

(2) We have three separate account numbers, but two accounts; The WSURA Nick Davis Scholarship Endowment has an *endowment* component and a *spendable* account component. Contributions will go to the Endowment component unless a specific request is made for spendable. The third account is our Patron fund.

b. Current Value of Nick Davis Endowment. (NDE)

The current value of the NDE is \$46,500, which will produce next year \$2325 for scholarships. That has only to increase by \$3,500 to \$50,000 to produce two scholarships of \$1250 each. Or, increase to \$60,000 to produce two \$1500 scholarships. That is only an increase of \$13,500 and is within reach.

c. University Retirees have been extremely generous contributors, especially in the past two years.

The total contributions of retirees have exceeded \$450,000 during the last decade, but only 9% of retirees have contributed. In order to encourage people without a donor history to begin giving, an anonymous gift of up to \$1000 in matching funds has been promised. Matching gifts of up to \$50 will be made to match new donors. The goal is to increase the number of persons donating. This could potentially encourage 40 new donors at \$50 per person, or 80 new donations at an average of \$25. Hypothetically, the percentage of retirees could be doubled, increasing from 9% to 18

Vice President: Jim Sayer commented on the upcoming work scheduled on Col. Glenn Highway and its impact on university traffic. He thanked the Board for the card sent to his wife, Cathy, after her recent surgery.

Secretary: Donna Curtin was absent. **Marlene Bireley** served as Secretary pro tem.

Treasurer: Gail Whitaker was absent. **Abe Bassett** distributed the report that she had prepared. The current balance of the University funded account is \$1,978. The Association account has a balance of \$11, 401.45. One life and three annual memberships had been received since the previous report.

Communications Coordinator: Marlene Bireley reported that the Spring *Extension* was completed on February 26. Distribution was requested for March 7.

Past President: Gary Pacernick. No report.

COMMITTEES

Activities: Mary Gromosiak. Mary was absent, but **President Bassett** distributed a copy of the report that she had prepared for the cancelled February meeting.

- 2/5/14 Dinner at **Uno's and tour of the Schuster Center.** (Weather was bad, but two members attended.)
- 2/8/14 Men's **basketball game vs. Cleveland State followed by dinner at TJChumps.** (Twelve attended the game; eight the dinner)
- 2/11/14 Presidential **Lecture Series. Leroy Butler, Advocate for Disadvantaged Youth.**

- 3/5/14 **Guest speaker following WSURA Board Meeting. (Co-sponsored by Friends of the Libraries and the Dayton Council on World Affairs) Donna Schlagheck, Chair, Political Science. Topic: Model United Nations at WSU.** Noon. Student Union. (About twenty persons attended; Dr. Schlagheck also brought a graduate student who spoke of her experiences both as a participant and student leader.)
- 3/19/14 **Presidential Lecture Series: Michio Kaku, Ph.D.,** famed theoretical physicist and co-founder of the String Theory. Dr. Kaku is one of the most noted scientists of our time. A large crowd is anticipated. 7 p.m., E.J. Nutter Center.
- 4/25 and 4/26. **Overnight trip to Holmes County.** See beeonthegotravel.com or contact Jan Austin for particulars. Down payment due by March 1 and final payment due by April 1.

Mary is working for dates for trips to the **Dayton STEM School, Calamityville,** and **Hawthorn Hill.** Some will most probably be delayed until next year.

Bylaws and Elections: Judy Rose reported that the slate is complete. In addition to returning Board members, **Elizabeth Harden** will be running for the Board and **Dick Williams** has agreed to run for president-elect.

Judy also presented a small change for the by-laws Under **Section 5: Elections** she is suggesting that the sentence, “**Any ties shall be resolved via a secret ballot cast by those members attending the next Annual Meeting.**” be added. This change will be distributed in the letter included with the Ballot and voted on at the June Annual Meeting.

Historical Preservation: Lew Shupe reported that Chris Wydman will present on the Oral History Project at the upcoming University Staff Development meeting. All of the completed interviews have been transcribed and will soon be posted online. The last persons to be interviewed were Paul Wolfe, Lorraine Wagley and Craig Willis. They are planning to videotape some of the early interviewees who were done on audiotape. Upcoming interviews will include Bob Thobaben, Mary Jo Wiley and Judy Marquis (daughter of Norwood Marquis, first Dean of the College of Education). Lew has also been talking to Orlas Semlar, an early secretary who worked at Warner House and assisted with registration. She, in turn, has helped them contact Walker Allen, the first Registrar, and details are being worked out for a mail and/or telephone interview with him.

Membership: Gerry Petrak shared the following statistics: WSU has 999 retirees of whom 914 are still living. She did not have the current WSURA membership total but Marlene estimated it to be 361 as of the last mailing of the *Extension*. Of those, 305 live in Ohio. In 2013, 58 persons retired and 55 continue to live in Ohio. Letters of invitation to WSURA have been sent to these recent retirees.

OCHER: Rich Johnson reported that the next meeting will be held in about two weeks. Both STRS and PERS have had good investment years with both funds earning more than ten per cent.

Scholarship: No report

Sunshine: Marlene Bireley noted that **Sally Clayton, Cathy Sayer and Ruth Schumacher** recently had surgery. Deaths included **Noel Nussbaum**, Dept. of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology; **John Ray**, Department of Geography and former WSURA Board member; and **Robert Turk**, Department of Surgery.

Athletic Council: Mary Kenton attended the last meeting on the Friday prior to our meeting. Our student athletes continue to maintain a high GPA overall exceeding that of the general university population. The loss of Butler in the Horizon League has led to higher travel costs since Wright State does not have a travel partner. Belmont College will become a league affiliate for soccer and may be a candidate for full membership at a later time.

Friends of the Libraries: Gary Barlow was pleased with the both the content and attendance at the workshops that FOL sponsored this year. The last one was led by Archivist Dawne Dewey on the topic “History in Newspapers,” Participants used old papers to research content, biases, headlines, and cross-referencing as well as discussing the use of newspapers in genealogical research.

Gary asked members to hold April 30 for the annual meeting. It will be held at the Dayton Art Institute. Hank Dahlman, Director of CELIA (Collaborative Education, Leadership and Innovation in the Arts), one of the university’s Centers of Excellence, will be the speaker.

The University Libraries are also sponsoring a workshop on “Wright in your own Backyard” A Public History Graduate Symposium on March 14 in the Student Union. The cost is free but registration is required.

Gary updated the Board on Library staff changes. As of January 31, Stephen Foster has stepped down from the position of University Librarian to devote full time to his position as Associate Vice President for International Affairs. Sheila Shellabarger will serve as Acting University Librarian. Michelle Brasseur has assumed the position of Marketing Communications Specialist, University Libraries. She is working closely with the FOL Board and their activities.

International: Bob Wagley recently attended the International Advocacy Committee meeting. The International office will sponsor an annual International Friendship Affair on April 5. The theme will be birthday celebrations in various countries. This year, WSU has 1,648 international students from 64 countries. This is a 123% increase from last year and by fall of 2015; there is a target of 3000 students. Ohio is eighth in the nation in the number of international students. At WSU, the most popular areas of study are engineering, mathematics and science. The largest groups of students come from China, India, Saudi Arabia and Canada. Next year, an increase in students from Iraq is expected.

New Business: President Bassett led a discussion about rescheduling Robert Sweeney as a speaker. (He was to speak following our cancelled February meeting.) Since the rest of this year is scheduled, Gary Barlow will contact him to see if he is available for next September.

Old Business: A brief discussion of the LEAP program that matches international students with partners to practice English ensued. Bob Wagley, Gerry Petrak and Abe Bassett shared some of their experiences.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 10:00 a.m., in the Student Union’s Explorer Office room 103. At noon, the Board will be the guests of Dr. Dan Abrahamowicz, Vice President for Student Affairs, in the Wright Room in the Student Union; Dr. Abrahamowicz will speak to us at the luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Bireley, Secretary Pro Tem
March 6, 2014