

**Wright State University Retirees Association
Minutes of the Board Of Directors
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015**

Board Members Present: Abe Bassett, Frieda Bennett, Marlene Bireley, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Gary Pacernick, Gerry Petrak, Jim Sayer, Lew Shupe, Carol Stevenson, Bob Wagley, Gail Whitaker, Dick Williams.

Absent: Gary Barlow, Elizabeth Harden, Judy Rose, and Paul Wolfe

President Williams called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

MOTION: PACERNICK MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 25. SECONDED BY PETRAK.
THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President—Dick Williams

Resignation.- Williams announced the resignation of Richard Johnson effective immediately as member of the board and chair of the OCHER standing committee. Williams will temporarily fill in on the OCHER committee until a replacement is appointed. Rich was recognized for his early involvement in the formation of WSURA and for his recent service to the Board.

Enrollment.- Fall semester enrollment figures are up 1.6% from last fall semester. Of the 279 new students, all but one are in the College of Engineering. The University College numbers are down 9% to 2700 students from a high of 5000 several years prior. The total head count is steady at 17,527, cut down from the all time high of about 21,000 five years ago.

As the new state funding formula favors retention and graduation figures, rather than head count, the state universities, including Wright State, have increased their admission standards, forcing marginal students into community colleges.

New business.- The revised Procedures Manual will be brought before the board at the October meeting.

Vice President—Mary Kenton

No report as Vice President, but report for Scholarship Committee.

Past-President—Jim Sayer

Campus changes.- The soccer field on lower campus has been removed and replaced by two buildings, including storage for road salt. A "Roundabout" has been constructed in the area to increase traffic flow efficiency, but Sayer suggests that all drivers must first take a class in "Roundabout Traffic Management."

On going campus upset.- It is rumored that a Federal grand jury has been impaneled and will begin meeting next week to deal with alleged misdeeds by campus officials concerning issuance of the H-1B visas. [Sec. note: This program allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.]

Branding. A firm has been hired, for the second time in seven years, to lead the University on creating an effective brand. One idea reported to be under consideration is to change the name of the University, a suggestion greeted by energetic laughs. Board member suggestions for new (old) names included, "BeaverTech," "Southwestern Ohio U," and "Whats-a-Matta U?"

Wellness Center.- 28 retirees are now taking advantage of no-fee use of the University Wellness Center through their retiree membership.

University Foundation. 107 retirees have donated \$112,885 to the University, of which \$6,090 is for the Nick Davis Scholarship Fund. A telephone solicitation to retirees will take place in late October.

Secretary—Abe Bassett

Abe thanked members for their quick response to the draft of the August minutes, and asked members respond to the September meeting within 24 hours. It is expected that a draft version will be posted to the website in about 48 hours. Members who make reports are also asked to provide the secretary with a written report.

Uphoff.- Bassett read portions of a letter from James Uphoff. A possible luncheon may be scheduled in December to welcome him home. Uphoff has been working with inmates on their language skills and hopes to be able to continue this work after his release.

CLASS- the Center for Liberal Arts Student Success now occupies the former WSURA office in Millett Hall. Wayne Stark is the director and expressed interest in learning more about the retiree association. There may be opportunities for retirees to work with Liberal Arts students.

Telephone numbers.- Most board members gave permission to have their telephone numbers added to their information on the WSURA website

Roster.- A corrected Board Roster was circulated to the members.

Bylaws.- The Secretary noted several discrepancies and needed changes in the Bylaws and encouraged the Board to review the Bylaws in preparation for submitting revisions to the membership as required by the Bylaws.

Treasurer—Gail Whitaker

Monthly report.- Expenditures for the month of August were very light and the budgets are healthy. The treasurer's monthly report has been posted to the website.

University Support.- The full amount of promised University support was not automatically added to the budget, but is now being added.

Dues Account.- Bott suggested a possible use for funds from this account, which immediately brought forth response from other board members who had their suggestions for possible use. Treasurer Whitaker responded that it had been previously agreed that this fund would not fall below one year's operating expenses in the event that a future University administration might choose to cease support.

Office Computer.- There is strong evidence the office computer will have to be replaced.

Intruder.- The presence of an unauthorized person using facilities on the second floor was reported to Campus Police. The person was a dialysis patient associated with the first floor company. The woman was warned that she would be charged with trespassing if she continued to come to the second floor.

Communications—Marlene Bireley

Extension. The Fall Extension has been sent to the printers, but a copy has been posted to the website. Because of computer difficulties, the process took 4 hours to complete instead on the usual one hour..

Biographies.- Five members have sent their bios but 13 have not. These bios will be used in future editions of the extension to acquaint members with the backgrounds and current activities of those who serve on the Board.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities -Mary Gromosiak

Scheduled activities. DAI tour and lunch, Oct 2; La Commedia Dinner Theatre, October 29; Dayton Hollywood Racino, November 4; December Holiday Dining-in Brunch, TBA.

Presidential Lectures: Temple Grandin, September 9; Sen. Tom Harkin, November 3; Amy Purdy, February. 12; Maysoon Zayid, March 22.

By-laws and Elections—Judy Rose

Absent. No report.

Historical Preservation—Lew Shupe

The Oral History Project is now part of the Public History program in the Department of History.

Membership—Gerry Petrak

Correction.- It had been erroneously reported that WSURA had a total of 48 new members, but this is the number of retirees between January 1 and June 1, 2015. Each of the new retirees has received a letter of invitation written by James Sayer, and a WSURA brochure. No follow up has been planned.

Brochure. In anticipation of an order for additional brochures, copies were distributed to members asking for corrections or additions.

Free year. Petrak asked if the first year's "free of payment" is to continue.

MOTION: PACERNICE MOVED THAT THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MAY SPEND UP TO \$150 TO PURCHASE SNACKS AND RAFFLE BASKET ITEMS FOR THE HEALTH FAIR. SECONDED BY BIRELEY. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Scholarship Committee—Mary Kenton

Awardees.- Samantha Bowcher has decided to transfer to another institution allowing the committee to reopen the search for a second scholarship awardee.

Because of the extreme difficulty of transferring funds from Dues Account to Scholarship Account, Gail Whitaker has issued a \$37 personal check to the Nick Davis spendable account to make the award to Rosa Tweed equal to \$1500.

Sunshine—Peggy Bott

Deaths:

- **Heather Hostetler**, August 5, Associate Professor Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- **William D. Evans**, August 12, Professor, College of Business, Assistant Dean
- **Mary Elizabeth Enigk**, August 12, Medical Transcriber, School of Medicine
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Bireley reported the death of

- **Arlene Foley**, June, Assistant Dean, College of Science and Mathematics

LIAISONS**Alumni—Elizabeth Harden**

Absent. No report

Athletic Council—Mary Kenton

No report as there was no summer meeting.

Friends of the Library—Gary Barlow

Absent. No report

International—Bob Wagley

Reception.- A reception has been scheduled for Wednesday September 30 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm in the University International Conference Room. 20 visiting scholars have been sent invitations and

more names are expected.

LEAP. The Wagleys will continue to befriend an Iraqi couple met last year and will participate in LEAP this year. There is a need to inform other retirees of the LEAP program and the opportunity for service.

OCHER—Paul Wolfe

Absent. No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION: PACERNICK MOVED THAT THE PROCEDURE'S MANUAL BE PLACED ON THE OCTOBER AGENDA. SAYER SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday October 7, 10:00am, 210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive

Respectfully submitted,
Abe J Bassett, Secretary