

**Wright State University Retirees Association  
Board Meeting, September 3, 2014**

**Board Members Present:** Jim Sayer, Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Rich Johnson, Mary Kenton, Leone Low, Gary Pacernick, Lew Shupe, Robert Wagley, Gail Whitaker and Dick Williams

Absent: Elizabeth Harden

President Jim Sayer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the August 6, 2014 meeting. Gary Barlow moved to approve the minutes; Gary Pacernick seconded: THE MOTION CARRIED AND THE MODIFIED MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY A VOICE VOTE.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**President, Jim Sayer**

- After meeting with President Hopkins to indicate an omission, the WSURA budget was additionally augmented to meet the prior commitment of \$10,000 for the year.
- The WSURA website is up and running very smoothly. Thanks go to Dr. Bassett for his commitment to, and persistence in, seeing this great transformation take place. We can be proud of our new website.
- The Alumni Board has agreed to have WSURA serve as a liaison to that body. Dr. Elizabeth Harden has agreed to represent us in that capacity. Her first meeting with the Alumni Board will be Nov. 1.
- The official first day of enrollment data has been determined. Graduate enrollment is keeping the overall numbers in a positive manner. Undergraduate headcount is down by 75 bodies, offset by graduate increase of 278, resulting in a positive 0.5% overall. The College of Liberal Arts has suffered the biggest drop; the College of Science and Engineering has experienced the biggest increase.
- **Sarah's Fall Semester Office Hours are** Tuesdays, 3-6:00 pm; Thursdays, 10-3:00 pm, and Fridays, 3-6:00 pm; and she will be adding more hours beginning the last week of September.

**Vice-President, Dick Williams** - The Committee on Luncheon Alternatives is collecting data and ideas for the spring lunch. The committee will report on its progress at the October board meeting.

**Secretary, Donna Curtin** – no report

**Treasurer, Gail Whitaker** - August expenditures for our General Fund were minimal. Good news -- we did receive the additional \$3,800 from the administration to increase the annual General Fund allotment to \$10,000. (Currently, we have \$410 in our Patron Fund. The current balance in our account is \$11,720.95.

**Communications, Marlene Bireley** - The Fall edition of *The Extension* was completed on August 28. The mailing should be out by September 10.

**Past-President, Abe Bassett** - **Abe** made these suggestions and requests:

- When sending messages to the list serve, present the message within the text area of the email. Attachments as word documents and PDF files can be included --but should not be used as the sole method of communication.
- He volunteered to send out any email notices to the membership. Please keep Abe informed of all omissions and errors to the membership list and to the list serve as he will continue working to improve these lists.

- Abe also announced that the Book Club is meeting twice this year for each reading; once off campus and once on campus. The first book, *Everything I Never Told You*, by Celeste Ng, is 300 pages and can still be read in time for the discussion at 12 noon on Tuesday, September 16. For more details, go to the WSURA website.

## COMMITTEES

**Activities - Mary Gromosiak** – reminded us of the upcoming Fall Activities:

- Friday, Sept. 12, 4:30 pm- Tour of the Carillon with dinner following at the new Carillon German Restaurant. Reservations were due by Friday, August 29 Weds.
- Weds., Oct. 22, 10- 2pm - Health & Benefits Fair, Apollo Room Student Union
- Tues., Oct. 28, 10:30 am – tour of the STEM program 1724 Woodman Dr., Dayton. Lunch following at the Beavercreek Fox & Hound. Reservations due by Weds. Oct. 15. Email or call Mary: [mgromosiak@woh.rr.com](mailto:mgromosiak@woh.rr.com) or (937) 974-4020.

**By-laws and Elections, Judy Rose** - Membership costs – recommendations for a new dues structure will be presented and voted on at next month's meeting. Judy is already collecting names for re-election for next year's board members. If you are not going to run again, please give her the name of anyone who many want to take your place.

**Historical Preservation, Lew Shupe** - Interviews will begin beginning first of October. Dick Williams will be the first interviewee. Donna suggested another possible interviewee, Dee Fricioni.

**Membership, Gerry Petrak** – she shared a concern: she is having trouble obtaining an updated retirees list -- including new people. Tony Whack has agreed to send the request to Human Resources, at the end of each semester. Unfortunately, the recent list she received from them is not current – *for instance, the June retirees are not included*. Mary suggested she try obtaining the information by contacting the college dean's assistants directly, for a current list of all their department's retirees, especially the most recent ones.

**Scholarship, Mary Kenton** – The 2014-15 Athletics Council met for the first time on Friday, August 29 at 8:00 am in the Student Union. Chair Jeff John asked the chairs of the standing committees to give brief descriptions of their workloads and then passed around a volunteer sign up sheet. Fall sports are underway with a soccer double header scheduled for the 29th. Basketball schedules have not been finalized. Faculty Athletics Representative, Steve Fortson, spoke briefly about changes in NCAA rules and then deferred to Athletics Director Bob Grant. Wright State is still deciding exactly how to respond. Each school in the Horizon League will be free to choose to adopt the larger scholarships and for which teams. Most will probably enhance men's and women's basketball and perhaps some will include volleyball as well. And, of course, other changes may come as a result of various law suits now going through the courts. Stay tuned. On another note, Basketball schedules have not yet been finalized. Abe suggested we invite some athletic coaches to come meet with us to help us learn more about their clubs.

**Sunshine, Peggy Bott** – Dot Fay, who worked in Admissions, died on August 13, 2014.

## LIAISONS

**Friends of Library, Gary Barlow** – Their next meeting is set for Sept. 15. He will have information to share at the October meeting.

**OCHER, Rich Johnson** - Paul Wolfe has volunteered to be another representative and will go with

Rich to Columbus to the state meetings. The booklets outlining the policy and changes for the 2015 health care coverage have gone out—and several members have already received their copy. The most major changes will occur in 2016. The next informational meeting will be October 16 in Dayton – don't delay, the sessions fill up quickly. Also, education webinars are offered on the OPERS website.

**International, Bob Wagley** - He has received information that we have 29 visiting scholar faculties on campus– but he doesn't know how many we have at our partner schools. He would like to have a *meet and greet* with them on Oct. 1, after the board meeting in the University Center. Bob will send out a reminder beforehand.

**OLD BUSINESS** – construction has begun on the bridge crossing over Col. Glen Hwy.

**NEW BUSINESS** - LEAP is again asking for our assistance. Six board members have signed up to meet with international students to practice their conversational English skills. Bob Wagley has been sending emails to interested students to set up meetings; however, there are problems communicating with individuals. Students seem very interested in meeting when approached, in person, but then when contacted, no response. He doesn't know why. The new LEAP office is located in in the old Allyn Hall Administrative Wing.

Guest: Robert Sweeny, Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees met with us following today's meeting. There was a question and answer session, and he gave an overview of campus planning initiatives going on now coming in the future.

**Next meeting: 10:00 am, Wednesday, October 1, 2014** in the Millett Hall Conference Room. Former dean, Gregory Bernhardt will join us following the WSURA board meeting. He will give a presentation on the Dayton Regional Stem Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Curtin  
WSURA Board Secretary

Sept. 18, 2014