

DRAFTWright State University Retirees Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors.....
May 3, 2017**Board Members Present:**

Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Gary Pacernick, Sheryl Provens, Donna Schlagheck, Carol Stevenson, Dick Williams, Gail Whitaker, and Paul Wolfe.

Absent: Dan Abrahamowicz, Frieda Bennett, Donna Curtin, Judy Rose, Jim Sayer, and Ruth Schumacher,

Guest: Larry Prochaska

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

BARLOW MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE MEETING OF APRIL 5, 2017, SECONDED BY PACERNICK. APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

President—Mary Kenton

- Regrets from Dan Abrahamowicz, Frieda Bennett, Joyce Howes, Judy Rose, Jim Sayer and Ruth Schumacher.
- Reminded the Board that nine members have yet to make their donation to the Campus Scholarship Drive in the name of the Retirees Association. A letter from three-year awardee Rosa Tweed to the retirees is awaiting 100% board participation, which has been achieved for the past five years. Rosa Tweed will write about the trip we helped fund last summer. We hope to restore our giving rates from 2016's 17% to the 19.6% we achieved in 2015.
- Larry Prochaska was introduced as Secretary elect.
- Personal thanks were given to Whitaker, Gromosiak, Williams & Bassett for their tireless support of the President and the Association. Barlow thanked Kenton for her effective leadership during her 2016-2017 term.

Past President—Richard Williams

The 50th Anniversary Committee continues to meet but without a budget is unable to lock in specific events. Under consideration are various celebratory activities, such as: Athletics: a return of "first teams;" creation and use of a "50th patch" for uniforms; Photographic exhibits; Reunion of small affinity groups; Panels of outstanding professors; Aviation related materials; Oral History activities. The major events are to occur early in October.

Vice President—Donna Schlagheck

Schlagheck spoke briefly about planning for her year as president. The Association will need to adapt to a new University President and a different campus atmosphere. An important thrust will be growing membership. She will be contacting board members for new ideas.

Secretary—Abe Bassett—No report**Treasurer—Gail Whitaker**

- Treasurer's Report for April 30 was distributed, and has been posted online.
- Student Assistant Search: Whitaker is receiving inquiries for a student employee, but none have led to a hire. The position will be posted throughout the summer. A job fair may attract qualified applicants. A discussion ensued on the possibility of finding a recent retiree who would be interested in working limited hours. A skilled former University employee could probably meet our needs in a single morning each week.

Communications—Frieda Bennett – Absent – No Report

STANDING COMMITTEES

Activities---Mary Gromosiak

The 3rd Annual Luncheon now has 74 participants, resulting in seven tables with eight persons and two tables with nine persons. To be given away are four baskets with various items, and the flower arrangements from the nine tables. Each retiree will receive the newly printed bookmark. Members will be encouraged to consider the Roses/Rooster/Books tour to Columbus.

The annual Retirees/Staff/Faculty picnic in June will not be held this year. The Annual Meeting of the WSURA Membership will be held on June 7 in our offices in the University Foundation building. Refreshments will be served.

Bylaws and Elections—Judy Rose – Absent

Bott & Gromosiak will count ballots for election of officers and board members. President Elect Schlagheck will inform each of the candidates of the outcome of the election, and immediately following notification, results will be sent to Bassett for website posting.

Historical Preservation—Dan Abrahamowicz--Absent

Barlow reported that upcoming interviews are on schedule. Bassett will interview Suzanne Walker of the dance faculty on Friday, May 5. Abrahamowicz will interview Michael Cusack.

Sunshine—Peggy Bott

The following deaths have been reported.

- Dean Eiteman, April 21, 2017, Accountancy, 1969-1988
- Robert W. Putnam, April 10, 2017, Prof. of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology, Boonshoft School of Medicine
- Dr. Howard Fink, April 4, 2017, Clinical Professor, Dept. of Psychology

A card was sent to Judy Rose, who broke her leg.

Membership—Marlene Bireley

New members, not previously reported

- David Barr, Department of Religion, Philosophy and Classics
- Greg Coffey, Office of Enrollment Mgt.
- James Amon, Biological Sciences
- Tim Wood, Biological Sciences
- Judith Engle, SOM, Office of Public Relations and Strategic Planning
- Joyce Howes COSM, Dean's Office
- Nancy Beaty, Student Union Administrative Office

Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick – No report

Webmaster – Abe Bassett

Nineteen news items added to web in April.
280 page views to the WSU website in April

LIAISONS

Alumni— Dick Williams

There has been no recent meeting of the Alumni Association.

Athletics—Mary Kenton

The Athletics Council met briefly on April 28. The Standing Committees gave brief years-end reports. The meeting adjourned around 8:30am to enable members the opportunity to attend the Board of Trustees meeting.

International—Ruth Schumacher—Absent—No report

Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow—No Report

OCHER—Paul Wolfe, Dick Williams and Peggy Bott.

There was no recent OCHER meeting in April. However, Williams reported on developments in the State Teachers Retirement System:

STRS Report: As expected, the STRS Board at its April meeting reduced cost-of-living increases granted after July 1, 2017 to 0%. The board agreed to evaluate whether to adjust the COLA upward no later than the next five-year actuarial experience review (i.e. in 2022). The action to reduce the COLA to 0% is expected to improve the ratio of assets to liabilities to about 70.89% with a funding period of 20 years from 62.6 and 57.7 years without the COLA reduction.

As previously reported at their March meeting the STRS Board decided to (1) reduce the expected rate of return on the pension fund's assets, (2) adopt new mortality assumptions that assume STRS members will live longer on average than past assumptions and, (3) reduce the payroll growth rate assumption to recognize that the number of higher education employed are increasing at a slower rate and are receiving smaller raises. Unfortunately, these changes will have a negative impact on the solvency period of the Health Care Fund which will now last for only 18 years compared to the previous estimated solvency period of 22 years. As a result the Retirement board is looking at options to increase the solvency period to 30 years. Needless to say, all of these options will require an increase in cost for all participants, more so for members who are not enrolled in Medicare.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON BENEFITS REVIEW

Stevenson offered an initial report of possible refinements to the WSURA benefit's package. She noted several places in University policies where reference to the retirees association should be listed but is missing. These include the University's sections on "retirement," "fee remission for retirees," "leaving the University," "E-learning," and "Qualified Educational Assistance Plans."

President Kenton acknowledged the significant beginning to this study of benefits, and instructed the committee to continue its work with an augmented committee of Stevenson (Chair), Bireley, Bott, Schlagheck, and Howes.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY BARLOW AND SECONDED BY BIRELEY.
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday June 7, 10:00 a.m.
An EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE is scheduled for Wednesday May 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Meetings take place in the WSURA offices:
210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive

Respectfully submitted, Abe J Bassett, Secretary

First draft May 3, 4:30 p.m.
Revised May 4, 9:45am
Revised May 8, 10:45am & 9:15pm