

**Wright State University Retirees Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors  
April 6, 2016**

**Board Members Present:** Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Frieda Bennett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Gary Pacernick, Gerry Petrak, Judy Rose, Jim Sayer, Carol Stevenson, Bob Wagley, Gail Whitaker, Dick Williams, Paul Wolfe.

**Absent:** Donna Curtin, Elizabeth Harden, Lew Shupe,

President Williams called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

MOTION: SAYER MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2016. SECONDED BY BARLOW. MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President—Dick Williams**

The President recognized the many years of excellent service tendered by Gerry Petrak, who has resigned from the board. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers, and received the warm approbation from the members of the board.

The board went into executive session to discuss the excellent work of the WSURA's office assistant.

MOTION: WAGLEY MOVED THAT THE PAY OF MS. MOLNAR BE RAISED BY \$1.00 PER HOUR. SECOND BY BIRELEY. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

President reported on the proceedings of the March 31 Executive Committee meeting with Regis Lekan and Amy Jones of the University Foundation regarding plans for the upcoming CSIC Scholarship Drive. Last year was very successful with 200 or 19.63% of all retirees making contributions totaling \$256,227.00—an increase of \$81,000 from 2014.

The Nick Davis WSURA Scholarship Endowment was increased by \$11,700 and now stands at \$67,768.00. Two more years' growth at \$11,000 each year, will bring the Endowment to \$90,000, which will provide three scholarships of \$1500 each.

Board members 100% participation has been an important argument in persuading others to give. The board's gift of \$2200 was matched by two other \$2000 gifts, which was used to match donations of new givers. Pledge envelopes were circulated to each board member in anticipation everyone would make a contribution.

[For more details on 2015 fund raising, the reader is referred to the minutes of March 3.]

**Vice President—Mary Kenton**

No report.

**Secretary—Abe Bassett**

Bassett reported on significant changes to the WSURA website and urged members to give feedback. A new subheading is Obituaries. Several glitches will be corrected by next week.

An attempt is being made to allow annual members to pay their dues online. While there exist many examples on online payments throughout the University, some difficulty has been encountered in the office of the Assistant Provost. President Williams is spearheading an attempt to have this matter corrected. Several board members have remarked on the intricacies of accessing funds from various accounts and the need to clear any new arrangements with the board.

**Treasurer—Gail Whitaker**

The Treasurer's report for March 31 was distributed and has been has been posted online.

The promised increase in the University's annual support has occurred for this year with \$3,754 added to this year's budget.

**Communications—Marlene Bireley**

No Report.

**STANDING COMMITTEES****Activities—Mary Gromosiak**

Gromosiak distributed new re-designed bookmarks to be distributed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Retiree Luncheon on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Seven door prizes have been secured with the possibility of five additional prizes. Forty reservations have been received to date, and the RSVP date has been extended by one week to April 15. Retirees have been informed by email and by the electronic sign at the Nutter Center.

The tour of the Student Success Center on April 13 conflicts with the Annual Luncheon of the Friends of the Libraries, but will be held as scheduled. A second tour may be scheduled later.

The date for the June faculty/staff/retiree picnic has yet to be set.

**Bylaws and Elections—Judy Rose**

The ballot for officers and board members for the 2016-2017 year will be mailed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April. Retirees will have 30 days to return their ballots. Stevenson and Bott have volunteered to help count the results.

**Historical Preservation—Lew Shupe**

Absent. No Report.

**Membership—Gerry Petrak**

There are no new members in the past month.

**Scholarship Committee—Mary Kenton**

No Report.

**Sunshine—Peggy Bott**

Bott reported the deaths of 5 persons in March. Their names have been reported in two places on the website: In Memoriam, and Obituaries

- **William S. “Bill” McCormick**
- **Virginia Mary Byrd**, March 8, School of Medicine, 2001 - 2015
- **Robert Silverman**, March 5, 2016, Professor Emeritus, Mathematics
- **Janavee Williams**, March 3, 2016, twenty-two years at Wright State
- **Douglas P. Longenecker**, March 3, 2016, Professor and Founding Chair, Dept. of Family Practice, 1974 – 1977

**LIAISONS****Alumni—Robert Wagley**

No report. The Alumni Board of Directors has not met in the past month.

**Athletic Council—Mary Kenton**

A broad discussion of the university athletic programs ensued, particularly regarding the firing of Coach Donlon and the hiring of the new men’s basketball coach Scott Nagy. The athletic budget is under severe stress and the need to increase revenue is paramount. Athletics has a University provided budget of \$8.3 million dollars but earns only about \$310,000 at the box office, even though Wright State led the Horizon League in attendance at men’s basketball games. Less than a dozen universities in America earn enough at the box office to fully fund their programs.

**Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow**

The offer of Rubin Battino to the Retirees Association to lecture on “The Genius of the Wright

Brothers,” will be considered by the Friends of the Libraries.

The Annual Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 13.

**International—Bob Wagley**

No report.

**OCHER—Paul Wolfe**

Wolfe, accompanied by Williams, attended the OCHER meeting of March 22. A full report will be posted online, under the news and announcements headings. Some of the major points are:

1. OPERS and STRS Defined Benefit programs are under political pressure to switch to Defined Contribution plans for new retirees.
2. STRS investment returns since June 2015 are 4.7 % below historical returns.
3. The ratio of active participants to beneficiaries has fallen from 2 to 1 in 1994 to 1 to 1 in 2015.
4. STRS health fund will last for 15 years at the current rate of income and outgo. OPERS has already made significant changes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO CONCLUDE THE MEETING MADE BY BOTT. SECOND BY KENTON. MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 pm.

**The NEXT MEETING: Wednesday May 4, 10:00 am.  
210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Abe J Bassett, Secretary

*First Draft 4:15 p.m. 4/3/2016  
Second Draft 12:00 p.m. 4/26/2016  
Board Approval May 4, 2016*