

**DRAFT 1 --December 2**  
**Wright State University Retirees Association**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors**

**December 7, 2016**

**Board Members Present:** Dan Abrahamowicz, Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Frieda Bennett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Gary Pacernick, Sheryl Provens, Judy Rose, Jim Sayer, Donna Schlagheck, Ruth Schumacher, Carol Stevenson, Bob Wagley, Gail Whitaker, Dick Williams & Paul Wolfe.  
**Administrative Assistant Present:** Elizabeth Katrina (Rei) Molnar.

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 NOVEMBER 2, 2016, SECONDED BY PROVENS. APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President—Mary Kenton**

Received a report from University Foundation regarding retiree contributions for 2016, as of November 20.

- Year to date: \$133,314 from 145 donors for an average of \$919.00.
- This compares to \$177,797 from 184 donors last year at an average donation of \$966.28.
- Five gifts this year were \$10,000 or more.
- Four gifts from the Board were \$500 or more.
- The phone campaign to retirees is still ongoing and has raised nearly \$1,700 from 22 donors.
- The Nick Davis Endowment has grown by \$7,990 and is approximately within \$13,000 of reaching the \$90,000 goal.

[Bassett added that since 2001, retiree giving has exceeded \$1,000,000 with \$888,000 coming in the past five years.]

**Vice President—Donna Schlagheck—No Report**

**Past President—Richard Williams**

Williams reported on the initial deliberations of the Wright State 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

- The official start date of the anniversary celebration is October 1, 2017, but a “soft start” is January 1, 2017.
- Major constraint in planning is the lack of budget for new anniversary events. Most of celebration will be built around existing events such as Homecoming. Alumni is planning 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunions with emphasis on small affinity groups to get more participation (academic department & colleges, athletic teams, musical groups, student organizations, etc.)
- Because of financial constraints the celebration will built as much as possible around already scheduled events such as the WSU speakers series, Homecoming, etc.
- A website is under construction and should be online by January 1 and will be continuously updated with new material throughout the year. The committee has divided itself in three sub teams, including Marketing & Communication and History.
- Expectation is that the University will have a hard time getting continuous coverage from the Dayton Daily News and other media. The marketing people will concentrate on trying to get coverage for just a few high profiled events.
- The History subcommittee has involved Professor Paul Lockhart to recruit Public History masters students to help with interviews of faculty and staff from early years for use in oral history project and placement in local media.
- Question mark about how and what kind of involvement the new president will want.
- Retirees Association should coordinate with Alumni Association to plan an event (our annual luncheon?)

that would try to involve more retired faculty and staff as well as participating in whatever history projects (including oral history) that will be developed.

- Lily Howard's history of Wright State should be published in time for the celebration.

### **Secretary—Abe Bassett**

WSURA membership stands at 288 members of which 235 (81.5%) are Life members and 53 (18.4%) are Annual members. Several years ago membership stood at 315.

### **Webmaster's Report**

The website had had 895 hits in November for a yearly total of 2314. This compares to 169 hits in September. On three consecutive days alone, there were 275 page visits. The large increase is due to the mailing of the first digital newsletter to all retirees, including more than 800 who are not members of the Association. Viewers lingered on certain news articles for a longer period of time than others. Some examples: Coach Nagy's Salary Explained; Larry Hussman Publishes a Memoir; Board of Trustees Struggling with Finances. Other well-attended online sources are In Memoriam and Obituaries.

The number of news stories posted online has increased over the past three years: 5 in 2014, 20 in 2015, to 55 in 2016.

The Webmaster is now soliciting volunteers to work on the "Webmaster Team" to develop new stories and to help develop social media.

*Upgrading of Benefits Presentation.* Bassett presented to the Board a printout of WSURA Benefits as now constituted on the website, pointing out discrepancies and inaccuracies, and declaring the need to verify the accuracy of stated member benefits.

He also made available to the Board, the Alumni Association's list of benefits, asking if we can strengthen our offerings by borrowing from or collaborating with the Alumni.

As the Board agreed generally, President Kenton asked for volunteers and made the following appointment to an *ad hoc* committee, with a request that this task be accomplished within a short period of time:

#### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON BENEFITS:**

Wagley (chair), Abrahamowicz, Bireley, Sayer, & Schlagheck.

### **Treasurer—Gail Whitaker**

The report of November 30 shows the association is on solid financial condition. The report has been posted online and all previous reports may be accessed on the WSURA website.

A Hewitt Packard office computer is on order and should arrive sometime this month. However, the Board-authorized printer has been held up by a University policy that denies stand-alone printers to offices. The University prefers that Xerox installed and maintained printers be used by groups of offices even though the apparent cost to the user is higher than with a standalone. Whitaker has arranged to meet with the University Representative, Jamie Norris, to study our unique situation. Whitaker will argue that our students and member use the office outside of regular business hours. If University policy prevails, Xerox will install and maintain the printer and automatically send ink toner at the appropriate time.

### **Communications—Frieda Bennett**

Bennett announced that work is progressing on the Winter Extension, Issue 93, and that work has begun on the new edition of the WSURA directory.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Activities---Mary Gromosiak**

Members are directed to the website for a complete listing of activities from now to the end of the year. Upcoming events include:

- January 8 – Sunday      RSVPs due for Dining Out Brunch (11am) & Tour of New Hanger at AF Museum
- January 15 – Sunday      Dining-out Brunch 11:00am at Brio's in The Greene

- January 15 – Sunday      Tour of the latest Hangar at the Air Force Museum 3:00 pm
- January 31 – Tuesday      Dan Rather – Presidential Lecture Series – 7pm Nutter Center
- February 2 – Thursday      Philharmonic open rehearsal / Mahler’s fifth symphony TBA
- February 26 – Sunday      Women’s basketball vs. Milwaukee – Time TBA RSVP by Feb. 20
- March 2 & 9 – Thurs.      Gary Pacernick – “Finding the poet Within”
- March 16 & 23 – Thurs.      Gary Barlow – Basic Ikebana (flower arranging)
- March 2, 9, 16, 23      Bob Wagley: “Writing Your Life, One Story at a Time”
- March 30 – Thursday      Jonathon Capehart – Presidential Lecture Series – 7pm Nutter Center
- Spring      Men’s Baseball Game – Date TBA
- May 11, Thursday      WSURA Third Annual Luncheon

### **Bylaws and Elections—Judy Rose**

The time has come to begin searching for retirees to run for Board positions, and for present board members to indicate if they wish to rerun. [From the Secretary: terms conclude in 2017 for the following persons/offices: Past President Williams, Secretary Bassett, Treasurer Whitaker. Members-at-Large: Stevenson, Curtin, and Schumacher. Standing Committees: Gromosiak, Rose, Wolfe, and Bott.]

### **Historical Preservation—Dan Abrahamowicz**

A meeting was held November 15 to discuss project and future directions. Abrahamowicz agreed to chair the committee consisting of Barlow, Bassett, Whitaker, and Kenton with Wydman, *ex officio*.

To date a number of interviews (31 individuals) have been conducted and recorded. Wydman explained the recording system and how to view recordings online. He agreed to 1) organize interviews by college/division and 2) to host a training session on recording archives and how to view.

Next steps include setting a meeting date for the committee, devising goals and an approach system for the project, creating a list of future interviews, and meeting with Wydman to review existing interviews.

### **Membership—Marlene Bireley**

Six retirees have become members of the Association:

- Cheryl Nickoson, Research and Sponsored programs
- Marilyn Pickett, Human Services
- Lucille Steinbrunner, Dean’s Office, Lake Campus
- Leanne Moeller, College of Liberal Arts, English
- Tony Ortiz, Office of Latino Affairs
- Barry Skrobot, Boonshoft School of Medicine

### **Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick**

Of the three scholarship awardees only Rosa was present. Rosa gave a detailed accounting of the three weeks she spent in Poland this summer. It was an intense and memorable experience, which will provide life long benefits.

### **Sunshine Committee – Peggy Bott**

Recently deceased retirees:

- Ching Po Li, MD, November 6, Associate Professor of Radiology
- Charles Funderburk, PhD, November 17 Professor of Political Science
- Harold G. Dusko, November 20, Adjunct, Department of Geology & Geography

### **Alumni—Robert Wagley**

Alumni Association had its first meeting of the year on November 4.

The first part of the meeting dealt with “branding,” and the second part with an appraisal of an Alumni online survey. The survey was sent to 44,000 alumni email addresses with a 3% response (about 1,320). 20% of the respondents (264) reported incomes of \$100,000 or more. 10% of the respondents (132) reported incomes of less than \$20,000. There was a high favorability rating of the University from those who responded.

### **International—Ruth Schumacher –**

Schumacher is working with The University Center for International Education [UCIE] Host Family program.

Some aspects of the program are not yet settled and the program is in temporary abeyance.

**Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow**

On November 10, 2016, Gary Barlow interviewed Lorna Dawes for the "WSURA Oral History Project." Lorna was past Director of the Student Union (also previously known as the Student Center). Chris Wydman operated the camera, and Gail Whitaker observed the interview. The interview is currently being transcribed, and will be available for online viewing in the near future.

**OCHER—Paul Wolfe and Dick Williams**

An excellent report was made on OCHER (The Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees). The report, dealing mainly with health care benefits for pensioners of STRS and OPERS is extracted here, but the complete report has been posted to the WSURA website at [OCHER Report](#). The report's essence:

- There is considerable uncertainty about the effect of the Trump administration on the health insurance situation. What will happen to the Affordable Care Act is unclear but the expectation is that it will not have much effect of STRS. Because OPERS health insurance is linked to the state insurance exchanges, the effect is more uncertain.
- The HPA (Healthcare Pensions Advocacy) group which looks at all Ohio state public pension systems thinks the health care system will need some cuts. They wanted to make recommendations for 50 years stability but decided the future is too uncertain to plan that far ahead. Pension payout is exceeding income, so some adjustments will be needed in 2019.

In order to have representation from both STRS and OPERS, Wolfe has volunteered to resign in order to make way for an OPERS individual. Bott expressed some interest, but all agreed no decision would be made prior to the February meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING MADE BY BARLOW. SECONDED BY SAYER. MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 PM.

**The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING:** Wednesday February 1, 10:00 am.

**Meetings take place in the WSURA offices:**

210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive

Respectfully submitted,  
Abe J Bassett, Secretary

*First draft 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, December 7, 2016*