

Wright State University Retirees Association  
Minutes of the Board of Directors  
June 6, 2018

**Present:** Abe Bassett, Marlene Bireley, Mary Kenton, Larry Prochaska, Donna Schlagheck, Dick Williams, Gary Barlow, Carol Stevenson, Ruth Schumacher, Peggy Bott, Gail Whitaker, Judi Engel, Robin Suits, Mary Gromosiak, Dan Abrahamowicz, Gary Pacernick & Joyce Howes.

Absent: Ruth Schumacher, Sheryl Provens

President Schlagheck called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 2,  
2018.

**President—Donna Schlagheck**

1. Donna reported that the successor scholarship fund may include:

--Model UN

--Study Abroad

--Disabled students

--support for field work

--WSU Oral History

The 2018-2019 Scholarship Committee will discuss and prioritize new scholarship opportunities. They will bring a proposal to the board by end of 2018 or fully fund the scholarships supported by the endowment of Nick Davis, whichever comes sooner.

2. Donna reminded Call Center volunteers that ALUMNI AFFAIRS will be in touch re: phoneathon. (Barlow, Bassett, Howes, Pacernick)

3. 2017-2018—THANK YOU's to Gail Whitaker for her work on the luncheon, training our student assistant, and counting those ballots! To Mary Kenton, who assumed responsibility for the EXTENSION! To Joyce Howes, for leading the COMMUNICATION working group, and engaging the talents of our newest board members, Judi Engle and Robin Suits! To Mary Gromosiak, for the incredible array of programs she organized for our members! To Abe Bassett, for his diligent attention to the website, the FB page, recruiting terrific new members, and the broader picture of communication with our members. To Gary Barlow for adorning the office space with art and connecting WSURA to the Oral History project! To Peggy Bott and Dick Williams, for the regular OCHER updates for OPERS and STRS pensioners! And to Larry Prochaska, for generating readable minutes, and to Sheryl Provens, for her attention to the numbers!

4. Donna will thank to Dr. Steven Berberich for his liaison work and wishing him well in his new job.
5. Donna reported that University Advancement has received additional gifts for the match. Almost \$3,000 for the match has been received and Advancement continue to try and secure more before we go to print with the solicitation letter. Here is Helena Jenkins letter;

Dear (first name)

Wright State has been like home to me all my life. My mom and dad earned their degrees here, and my grandfather, Jeffrey Vernooy, worked here for 36 years. I still remember his interest in myself and my siblings education, especially that we wouldn't be dissuaded from entering STEM fields. When I finally arrived as a freshman, I was already familiar with campus from my family visits and through STEM workshop days and Science Olympiad competitions. I have always thought of Wright State as a place where faculty and staff really care and work hard to help students achieve their career goals. Gifts for scholarship or program support from current Wright State employees and retirees, like you, make it possible for students, like myself, reach for their goal of earning a college degree.

I am seeking my degree in English and Women & Gender Studies and hope to build a career in writing diverse young adult literature, especially in the fantasy and sci-fi genre. I also have a passion for graphic design and plan to use that talent and my graphic design experience, which I've been able to add to since coming to Wright State, as a way to augment my professional experiences after college.

I am so grateful for the Nick Davis WSURA Scholarship, named in honor of former Retiree Association Board President, which is helping make my career dreams come true. Right now my scholarships balance precisely enough that I can pay tuition, rent, and utilities. If I didn't have my scholarships, I would be draining the college savings account for myself and my two sisters. Thank you so much for your past generosity and dedication to students, like me. As a retiree of Wright State, you understand the impact financial assistance can have on students, but to us students, it feels like a miracle.

One day I plan to give back help to other students at Wright State. I see receiving a scholarship as planting a seed in my future, and it's my job to grow it and be willing to plant a seed to the next generation. I hope you will consider making a gift during the Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign (CSIC) by supporting the WSURA Nick Davis Scholarship. Complete the attached gift form and return by mail or you can go to [wright.edu/give](http://wright.edu/give) to make an online gift by credit card. Thank you again for supporting Wright State students!

Sincerely,

Helena Jenkins '\_\_\_

WSU Retirees Association Nick Davis Scholarship Recipient

6. Emily Ross will work over the summer and continue to work on the oral history project for a few hours a week.
7. Parking passes for Board Members have been applied for through Theresa Bidwell's office. Shannon Norton is also in the loop. Donna asked Joyce to follow up on this issue throughout the summer.

8. Please note e-mail d.schlagheck@wright.edu 937 901-2019

### **President Elect—Joyce Howes**

1. Joyce thanked everybody for their concerns over her operation and state that both she and her recipient are doing well.
2. In August, the Board meetings will start at 10:00 AM.
3. Joyce reported that all WSU retirees are members of the WSU Alumni Association. She will contact Greg Schearer to give a presentation to the Board concerning the benefits. Gold Membership benefits are available for anyone who gave WSU \$100 during their lifetime. The Board will explore cost options to make all WSURA members Gold members of the Alumni Association.
4. Joyce has asked Robin to consolidate all of WSURA email lists.
5. Judy, Robin, Emily, and Mary will be asked to perform all subsequent electronic media text in WORD in the most recent version.

### **Past President & Communication—Mary Kenton**

Mary reported that the Communication sub-committee membership will be Marlene, Abe, Robin, Judi and herself. Also, the EXTENSION is in its final form and will be printed this week.

### **Secretary—Larry Prochaska**

#### **No Report**

### **Treasurer—Sheryl Provens**

The May, 2018 report is attached. The Board discussed options in case a surplus in the budget was left at the end of the fiscal year.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Activities—Mary Gromosiak**

Fifty-five attended the Annual Retirees luncheon. Dan Krane gave an excellent presentation and Shannon Norton attended.

#### **Proposed Activities for 2018-19**

1. Learning Workshops  
Topics include: Art appreciation with Gary Barlow talk and visit to Dayton Art Institute; current affairs with Donna;
2. Other Activities: Evening at Dayton Raceway with dinner; WSU Raider Basketball Men's and Women's games; Health Fair; Woodland Cemetery tour; Dining in/holiday season brunch; Dining out/winter brunch getaway.
3. Members suggestions: BB Riverboat; Dayton Philharmonic rehearsal; computer training; Carillon

Park Brewery; Wine Tour; US Grant historical site tour; Bowling; Dayton Dragons; Columbus, Toledo, Hamilton, and Cincinnati art museums; “Family Entertainment Event”, genealogy and smart phone talks; WSU campus tours of new building including genomics center; Rockwood pottery tour; Estate planning; How to keep a journal.

#### **Benefits----Carol Stevenson-No Report**

#### **Bylaws and Elections—Gail Whitaker**

Report is under new business.

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

Dan reported that Emily is update to date on transcriptions of all interviews.

#### **Membership Development – Marlene Bireley**

Marlene provided historical copies and pictures of the EXTENSION for board review.

#### **OCHER—Peggy Bott and Dick Williams**

##### **OPERS**

Peggy has joined Public Employee Retirees, Inc. or PERI a couple months ago and received their first quarterly Newsletter recently. They are an advocacy organization for public employees, particularly OPERS. This is the organization that spearheaded the lobbying efforts to save the COLA for OPERS members. In the newsletter the President and other top official explain why they don't think it is necessary for the COLA to be changed. In 2017, OPERS Board of Trustees voted to reduce their anticipated annual rate of return on investments from 8% to 7.5%. This action created an unfunded liability of \$2.8 billion that OPERS is required to recognize on their books. OPERS maintains that this action was based on the advice from their actuaries and investments team. The PERI officials believe it was not necessary to reduce the expected rate of return since OPERS has successfully exceeded the 8% investment target when averaged over 30 years. Also the rate of return for 2017 was over 15%. There is additional information in the PERI newsletter on the laws and court cases that are relevant to the COLA being changed. The Newsletter is available online at PERI, Inc. It is only about \$20 a year to join.

##### **STRS**

The good news from STRS at the May 22 OCHER meeting was that the Board approved a \$0 increase for all enrollees in the Aetna Medicare Advantage and Medical Mutual Basic plans. Medicare Enrollees under the Aetna Medicare Plan will continue to cost \$342 per month before the STRS subsidy. The subsidy is based on years of service. For enrollees with 30 or more years of service STRS pays a subsidy of \$215 per month so the retiree pays \$127, the same as 2018.

Non-Medicare enrollees with Aetna Basic (not in Ohio) or Medical Mutual Basic (Ohio only) will have a total cost of \$957 per month. Again, STRS will subsidize this cost based on years of service. For benefit recipients with 30 or more years of service STRS pays \$558 with the benefit recipient paying \$399 per month.

The Vision Plan and the Delta Dental optional plans will also continue at the same cost for the next

two years.

Benefit recipients enrolled in Medicare Part B will also receive \$29.90 per month to reimburse a portion of the Medicare Part B premium for 2019. The STRS Board previously had reduced the reimbursement to \$0 beginning in 2019 but approved extending the \$29.90 subsidy for 2019 because of the favorable claim experience in 2018 and a 15.8% investment return. The one year extension will cost \$31 million so there is no guarantee that the Board will continue the Medicare Part B subsidy beyond 2019 if claim experience or investment returns are not as favorable.

There was no significant news on the pension front. The Board's primary issue is whether the investment portfolio (for both the pension fund and the health care fund) should be "de-risked". On average higher risk leads to a higher return but with a greater chance of a large drop in value. The Board is weighing the results of a statistical study of historical performance of different combinations of risky assets (stocks) and less risky assets (bonds mostly) to arrive at a decision sometime next year.

Pushback from retirees over the ending of the Cost of Living Adjustment is building but there is still almost no likelihood that the Board will reconsider for the next several years.

### **Sunshine—Peggy Bott**

Peggy reported the following recent deaths:

Shirley Monnin, May 2, 2018, Office Manager for International Studies and Past President of WSURA  
 Walter H. Morgan, May 12, 2018, Physical Plant  
 JoAnn Topmiller,, May 22, secretary for 17 years  
 Paul Schreiber, MD, May 24, 2018, Professor of Medicine  
 Frances Spence, May 28, 2018, WSU Foundation

Peggy asked members to volunteer to bring refreshments for the meetings next year

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

Gary reported that the committee will meet in June.

A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED THAT IF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
 SELECTS FIVE QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS THAT ALL FIVE  
 SCHOLARSHOPS WILL BE FUNDED AFTER APPROVAL BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE  
 MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Webmaster – Abe Bassett**

Abe thanked Robin for her efforts in the past year and looks forward to working with her next year.

Webmaster Report 2017- 2018										
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Pageviews	254	277	230	247	192	162	167	-	228	416
Unique Pageviews	--	178	163	139	114	103	108	-	149	172
Time on Page	--	1:21	1:18	1:54	1:40	0:42	1:10	-	1:50	1:22
News Stories	11	13	17	21	24	15	22	31	30	16
eNewsletter, # sent	-	-	-	-	2	0	1	1	1	1
eNewsletter opened					684	0			---	416
Videos News	0	2	3	4	4	9	9	13	10	18
In Memoriam	0	5	2	0	1	2	4	1	3	1
Obituaries	0	4	2	0	3	2	4	1	3	1
Reflections	1	1	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	0
Events	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	8	7	Many
Facebook posts	0	0	0	7	21	12	0	12	17	Many
Facebook Members	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	45	45
Treasurer's Report	Aug 31	Sept 30	Oct 30	Nov 30	Dec. 31	Jan 31	Feb 28	Mar 7	Apr 30	
Board Minutes	Aug 2	Sept 6	Oct 4	Nov 1	Dec. 6	--	Feb 20	Mar 31	Apr 4	Mar 2
<p><b>August:</b> 2017-2018 Board members photos and contact information updated.</p> <p><b>September:</b> Video category added to Events &amp; News bucket; Updated Student Assistant Hours; Introduction of <i>WSURA: STAYING CONNECTED</i> as branding device on news stories and wherever else appropriate.</p> <p><b>October:</b> Creation of Video sub-menu under News &amp; Events Increase number of LINKS to 101 and assignment of exclusive use of Bucket Six to Links (under construction) Reconfiguration of Bucket 5 to feature Oral History, but include activities and liaisons (under construction)</p> <p><b>November:</b> Completion of website revision placing more emphasis on Oral History and Links and introduction of a submenu for video news. Addition of Portraits of African Americans to Oral History. Increased accessibility through drop- down menus on home page. Posting of 7 photos on Facebook.</p> <p><b>December:</b> eNewsletter mailed Dec. 5. Sent to 618 addresses; opened by 338 (55%)—not opened by 277 Second eNewsletter mailed December 14: Sent to 620 addresses; opened by 346 (56.3%)—not opened by 270</p> <p><b>January:</b> <b>February:</b> Released eNewsletter for release by late in month. Added six "Outlier" links. Photo page rearranged. Video page rearranged. Accepted Robin Suits as Associate Webmaster.</p> <p><b>March:</b> Dressed up Board of Directors page. Added contact information to bottom of every page. <b>8 new or updated Events;</b> 31 news stories; 13 videos; 1 extension; 1 Obituary; In Memoriam; 1 Treasurer's report; 1 board Minutes <b>Facebook: New Member Requests:</b> Clancy Day – Cathy Moore Wolfe <b>April:</b> Significant revisions to website underway. Plan for more frequent eNewsletter posting. 67 news, video &amp; Facebook photos posted: largest number ever. <b>May: Significant changes underway.</b></p>										

Robin presented a mock-up of the new e newsletter. The Board approved with the change that under the picture, WSU should be added to the retirees' association heading. Please email your comments to her at robin.suits@wright.edu.

## LAISIONS

### Alumni— Dick Williams

The construction of a new alumni building has been abandoned.

### Athletics Council—Mary Kenton/Larry Prochaska

The Board congratulated the baseball team advancing to the NCAA tournament. The Faculty Senate would like to retain its appointed members on the Council, even though the Senate has no remaining governance ties with the Council.

### International—Ruth Schumacher

No Report.

**Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow**

Gary recommended that the Friends of Libraries and the Alumni Office be sent copies of the EXTENSION. He also suggested that WSURA contribute to the Archives drive from the WSURA Treasury. There was a discussion about artwork and insurance in the WSURA office.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Gail reported that Larry, Ruth, Judi, and Robin were elected as president-elect, secretary, and board members, respectively.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING: August 1, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence J Prochaska". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "P".

Lawrence J Prochaska, Ph.D.,

Secretary