

**Wright State University Retirees Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors**

March 1, 2017

Board Members Present: Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Frieda Bennett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Gary Pacernick, Sheryl Provens, Judy Rose, Donna Schlagheck, Ruth Schumacher, Carol Stevenson & Dick Williams. Absent: Dan Abrahamowicz, Donna Curtin, Jim Sayer, Gail Whitaker, and Paul Wolfe.

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

BIRELEY MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2017, SECONDED BY BARLOW. APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

SPECIAL GUEST: ASSOCIATE PROVOST STEVEN BERBERICH

Berberich requested an opportunity to meet with the WSURA Board to enlist the organization's help in serving University faculty and staff and their transition into retirement. The Associate Provost thanked the organization for all the association is doing, saying he keeps up with activities through the website. He specifically noted WSURA financial contributions to the University as well as its championing of historical preservation, support of international education, etc.

Berberich asked how his office can collaborate with the Association to meet its goals and objectives, saying that he is the "center of a spoked wheel" when it comes to getting things done in the University. "SharePoint" was an example of how a group of people can be brought together online to trade information and stories.

The Associate Provost is interested in how the Association can be even more effective in helping employees prepare for and transition into retirement. The University is at present deficient in helping those persons. Help was sought from the Provost in securing in a timely fashion the names of persons who become retirees.

The thirty-minute session concluded with an extended discussion of retirement, and how difficult it is for persons who have devoted 30 to 40 years of their life to walk away from that which they obviously love. Several faculty continued teaching at adjunct pay, all for the love of teaching, and not compensation, which all consider to be excessively low. The development of a "step-down" plan and the potential of an "Emeritus College" were discussed.

The President thanked Associate Provost Berberich for his visit, and indicated receptivity for his repeated visits.

OFFICERS

President—Mary Kenton

Attendance Regrets from Gail Whitaker, Paul Wolfe, Jim Sayer, and Dan Abrahamowicz.

Board Elections.- Kenton met with Williams and Elections Committee Chair Rose to discuss potential nominees for the upcoming ballot. Rose will contribute more in her report. The President is lunching tomorrow with a prospective president-elect. Williams may have a word to add about trying to recruit a Webmaster in training.

CSIC plans for 2017.-Kenton and Bassett met with Regis Lekan and Amy Shope Jones of University Foundation to discuss our 2017 CSIC Strategy. WSURA overall participation rate fell from 19.63% to 17% and the amount raised went from \$256, 227 in 2015 to \$162,033 in 2016. Various explanations for the decline in giving ranging from the bad publicity the institution has received over the last two years, the current budget crisis, and the fact that 2016 was a political year with donations made to other priorities. In any event, WSURA needs to do better this year. Currently, the Nick Davis Scholarship Endowment has \$74,197. The standing goal is to reach \$90,000 ASAP so that three scholarships can be fully funded. A request was made to the Foundation to change the official name of the fund to the Nick Davis *Retirees* Scholarship Endowment because it was agreed that the new name is more meaningful. Kenton believes a second scholarship endowment could bear the name *Retirees Memorial Scholarship Endowment* to honor of deceased colleagues.

Accomplishment Letter.- Kenton circulated a copy of the letter written to President Hopkins thanking him for his support and reminding him of our accomplishments. Copies sent to the Provost, the President of the Foundation, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Several Board members commended Kenton for her well-written letter, and suggested it be the basis of coverage of the Association by University Communications.

Student Assistant Position.-There have been no applications for the student worker position, and it is highly unlikely there will be any work-study applicants this academic year. Needed is a plan to accomplish basic work.

Directory.- The 2017 WSURA directory was sent in error to a group of incoming students. Xerox immediately reprinted and mailed the directory to the appropriate retirees without additional cost to WSURA. Xerox maintains no “legal” harm was done to retirees.

Panel Discussion.- Kenton says she remain enthusiastic about scheduling a panel this Spring to discuss the state of the Ohio retirement systems. Almost every retiree she talks to has questions and concerns. She thinks this panel would be great service to employees in their 50s as well as to all retirees. Dick Williams needs a couple of volunteers to help him with recruiting and planning. Kenton will appoint an *ad hoc* committee for that event, and another committee to plan the reception for new retirees.

Executive Committee.- As Board business seems to be increasing, the President believes it is time to utilize a monthly Executive Committee to plan the agenda, and to discuss complicated topics and determine how they should come before the Board.

Past President—Richard Williams

Report on the 50th Anniversary Committee.

There is a new Facebook Group for employees to share stories of the first 50 years.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WrightState50>

A new instagram account to share historical photos and 50th-related photos may be found at

<https://www.instagram.com/wrightstate50>

Vice President—Donna Schlagheck

A brief discussion ensued concerning the anxiously awaited naming of WSU’s next president. Schlagheck revealed she had a clear preference, having attended all three open forum interviews. Williams expressed agreement with that choice. It has been reported that the Board of Trustees is divided in their choice. [Gerri Petrak, WSURA’s representative on the Presidential Search Committee, had earlier announced the choice should be forthcoming by February 17, a date that is now two weeks past.]

Secretary—Abe Bassett—No Report

Treasurer—Gail Whitaker—Absent—No Report

[The monthly Treasure’s Report will be distributed by email in a few days.]

Communications—Frieda Bennett

March 22 was announced as the deadline for submission of articles for the spring edition (No. 94) of *The Extension*. Bennett will be able to produce the mark-up of the newsletter without assistance.

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:

- March 2 & 9 – Thurs. Gary Pacernick – “*Finding the Poet Within*” 10am – 12 noon
- March 16 & 23 – Thurs. Gary Barlow – *Basic Ikebana* (flower arranging) 10am – 12 noon
- March 30 – Thursday Jonathon Capehart – Presidential Lecture Series – 7 p.m., Nutter Center
- May 11, Thursday WSURA Third Annual Luncheon

- June 27, Tuesday “Roses, Roosters & Reading”

One day bus trip to Columbus, including—Columbus Park of Roses, The Glass Rooster Cannery, & The Book Loft of German Village (32 rooms of bargain books.). Visit: www.beeonthegetravel.com or call (937) 828.7459 for additional information or to sign up. Cost is \$105 per person. Pickup points will be 8:00 am at Englewood Meijer and 9:00 am at Beaver creek Meijer. Return at 6:00 pm.

Bylaws and Elections—Judy Rose

There has been a lack of success in finding a person to run as Secretary. No present member of the board has expressed interest.

There are four persons running for four at-large seats. One will be a one-year appointment; the other three will be two-year terms. The individuals are Abe Bassett, Carol Stevenson, Gail Whittaker and Dick Williams. Provens will run as Treasurer, and Ruth Schumacher will continue board service as a Liaison for International Education. The Bylaws specify that President Kenton will become Past President and Vice-President Schlagheck will become President.

Historical Preservation—Absent—Dan Abrahamowicz

In place of Abrahamowicz, Barlow announced that he would be interviewing Donna Miles Curry

Sunshine—Peggy Bott

Bott revealed the passing of five retirees.

- **Mary Lorraine Kelly**, February 11, 2017, Custodial Services
- **Richard (Rich) Johnson**, February 10, 2017, Employee Benefits Manager
- **Mary Magdalene Weddington**, February 2, 2017
- **Philip Rizzo, Jr.**, January 31, 2017, Associate Director of Budget
- **Evelyn F Belcher**, January 31, 2017, Secretary, Department of English

Membership—Marlene Bireley

There are no new members this past month.

Five people have enrolled for the Poetry Worship; eight have signed up for the Flower Arranging workshop, six of whom are not Board members.

Eleven people attended the WSU Women’s basketball game; six went to TJ Chumps for dinner.

Rich Johnson’s daughter’s address: Jennifer Allen, 216 NE Ash Avenue, College Place, WA 99324

Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick – No report

LAISIONS

Alumni— No report

Athletics—Mary Kenton

The Council met on February 24. Most of the meeting was consumed with oblique discussions of the budget situation. The Athletics Director, Bob Grant, introduced three major long-time donors to the University in general but especially to Athletics. They discussed how they got involved and why they stayed involved. The Athletics Director made a plea to council members to support the program across campus. No specific plan to deal with a 1.5 million dollar budget cut has ever been presented to Council.

In other business the members voted to authorize the Academic Affairs Committee to award Fifth Year Scholarships as usual. The Gender Equity Committee will issue its report as if the institution were not in the midst of a budget crisis.

International—Ruth Schumacher

Schumacher reported on the international studies Host Family program. The Host Family program is very flexible. Families may host once per semester or once per month. They may pair with other hosts, and/or host more than one scholar/student. Foreign students may be invited for a home or restaurant meal, asked to share a hobby, go shopping, and attend a museum or a cultural event. The idea is to incorporate a scholar/student into the typical life of a WSURA member. Transportation, help with academics, and similar functions are not host responsibilities. Host families do not house scholars/students. Questions can be addressed to ruth.schumacher@wright.edu or 937-672-3368. Board members are encouraged to contact other WSURA members who might be interested. Please encourage them to contact Ruth, even if they are just thinking about hosting in the future.

Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow

Barlow reported on the acquisition of Legacy Books for Lewis Shupe. Dr. David Yoder has donated two books, including an original edition (1937) of the classic *Rehabilitation of Speech*, and *Beneath the Surface Creative Expression of Augmented Communicators' Expressions* (2000).

Books donated by WSURA are

Painting: Musee D'orsay by Stéphane Guégan
Caravaggio (2nd Revised Edition) by John T. Spike
Caravaggio: Complete Works, by Sebastian Schütze

OCHER—Paul Wolfe and Dick Williams

The next OCHER meeting will be March 17.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING: Wednesday April 5, 10:00 a.m.

Meetings take place in the WSURA offices:

210 University Foundation Building, 3070 Presidential Drive

Respectfully submitted,
 Abe J Bassett, Secretary

First draft 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Final revision Monday, March 13, 2017