

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

**October 5, 2016**

**Board Members Present:** Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Gail Whitaker, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Gary Pacernick, Sheryl Provens, Donna Schlagheck, Dick Williams & Paul Wolfe.  
**Administrative Assistant Present:** Elizabeth Katrina (Rei) Molnar.

**Board Members Absent:** Frieda Bennett, Donna Curtin, Jim Sayer, Carol Stevenson, Judy Rose, Bob Wagley & Ruth Schumacher.

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

MOTION BY BIRELEY TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. SECONDED BY BARLOW. APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President—Mary Kenton**

- Attendance regrets received from Bennett, Sayer, and Schumacher.
- Announced with pleasure that former Student Affairs Vice President and new retiree Dan Abrahamowicz has joined the association and has expressed interest in being an active working member.
- University Foundation reports retiree giving for the calendar year as of **September 30, 2016** is at \$90,940 from 110 donors.

[5 gifts were \$5,000 or more.]

\$7,295 has been designated for the Nick Davis Scholarship Endowment.

For the previous year up to

**September 30, 2015**, retiree giving was at \$141,196 from 117 donors.

[7 gifts were \$5,000 or more with 3 at \$25,000 or higher.]

\$6,130 was designated for the Nick Davis Scholarship Endowment.

Students begin next week writing thank you notes to all the retiree donors who have given as of September 30.

**Vice President—Donna Schlagheck**

Secretary's Note: Schlagheck was chosen to accompany 15 Wright State students to Hofstra College for the first Presidential Debate. Her accounting of the adventure, too long to include in these notes, has been posted online as a news article. Following the Board meeting she made a verbal report and responded to questions for twenty minutes.

**Past President—Richard Williams – No Report**

**Secretary—Abe Bassett**

**Webmaster Report**

The website had 184 hits in September making a total of 1260 for the year.

11 news stories were posted in September and two deaths reported in *In Memoriam*.

Thirty-five events are now listed and more will be added following today's meeting.

An Excel spreadsheet listing each member of the Board of Trustees and the position they hold was distributed. The length and ending of their term of office has been noted.

**New Business: Changes to the bylaws regarding appointment and status of liaisons.**

The Executive Committee met on September 22 to consider the status of those who serve as liaisons

and recommend two minor changes and the addition of one substantive sentence to **Section 6: Committees** of the Bylaws. If adopted by the Board and subsequently by the membership, liaisons will be appointed annually by the President, with the approval of the Board, for a term of one year. Sub-section e. of Section 6: Committees, when approved, will read:

Liaisons are those persons who represent WSUSRA in other university organizations or units that are of particular interest to WSURA members (for example, The Friends of the ~~Library~~ **Libraries**, the Athletics Council, the Alumni Association and the University Center for International Studies.) **The president with the consent of the board appoints liaisons annually.** Members who serve as liaisons ~~and but~~ **who** are not elected members of the Board shall have the same voting rights as elected members and standing committee chairs.

MOTION TO APPROVE MADE BY BARLOW, SECONDED BY SCHLAGHECK. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

### **Treasurer—Gail Whitaker**

The Treasurer's Report of September 30, 2016 was distributed (and has been posted online). Whitaker reported on her study of purchasing a new computer for the office. She has received advice that it will be smarter to purchase an "all-in-one" computer, as manufacturers are beginning to phase out the "tower models." Members who use "all-in-one" applaud the larger and higher quality monitors. Whitaker will meet with the Executive Committee later this month, presenting information for a final choice of computer and printer.

### **Communications—Frieda Bennett – ABSENT**

Bennett sent an email report stating that the Fall Extension (issue 92) has been mailed, with thanks to Bireley for her assistance. Story ideas for the Winter Extension (Issue 93) include: scholarship recipients, speaker's bureau, upcoming activities, listing of deceased persons, new members, Presidential Debate, and the Health Fair. New board members are asked to submit their biography prior to December 15.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Activities—Mary Gromosiak**

Members are directed to the website for a listing of activities from now to the end of the year.

Events that are new to the list are:

- January 15 – Sunday Dining-out Brunch 11:00 am
- January 15 – Sunday Tour of the newest Hangar at the Air Force Museum 3:00 pm
- February 2 – Thursday Philharmonic open rehearsal / Mahler's fifth symphony
- February 26 – Sunday Women's basketball vs. Milwaukee – Time TBA
- 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"

Potential future events that are being investigated:

- A tour to Columbus to visit the Franklin Conservancy and Tour of Roses and/or a visit to German Village & Gardens.
- A tour to U. S. Grant's boyhood home in Georgetown, Ohio combined with a visit to the John Rankin House in Ripley, Ohio. This tour could include a visit to a winery where a lunch could be obtained.
- Kenton is investigating a meeting with the man's and/or woman's basketball coach to take place in the Mills-Morgan facility.
- Tour of the Creative Arts Center

### **Bylaws and Elections—Judy Rose—Absent—No Report**

### **Historical Preservation—Vacant—No Report**

**Membership—Marlene Bireley**

Bireley reported that she and Stevenson have completed shopping for the free raffle baskets for the Health Fair on October 19. A \$15 Subway gift card was purchased for the general raffle held throughout the day.

She distributed the list of new retirees who have requested membership in the month of October. Human Resource contact, Tony Whack, has agreed to send an update on retirees on a monthly basis through the next few months when there will be an unusually large number of retirees. The names of the new retirees have been posted as a news story on the website.

Bireley reported dates for the three upcoming “Live & Learn Workshops” are set for four Thursdays in March 2017.

- *Finding the Poet Within* with Gary Pacernick, March 2 & 9
- *Ikebana-The Art of Japanese Flower Arrangement* with Gary Barlow, March 16 & 23
- *My Life, One Story at a Time* with Bob Wagley, March 2, 9, 16, & 23

**Scholarship Committee—Gary Pacernick—no report**

Three students have been awarded \$1500 scholarships. One of the awardees is Rosa Tweed, an Art major and carryover from the previous year.

**Sunshine Committee – Peggy Bott**

Recent deceased retirees:

- **Lil Hoehn**, September 28, 2016, Professor, College of Education and Human Services
- **Charles Berry**, September 27, 2016, Professor of History, College of Liberal Arts
- **Sue Carol Cummings**, September 19, 2016, Professor of Chemistry

**LIAISONS**

**Alumni**—Robert Wagley – Absent. No report.

**International**—Ruth Schumacher –Absent—No report

**Athletics Council—Mary Kenton**

The Athletics Council held its first meeting of the academic year on September 30 in the Student Union. Special guests were men’s basketball coach, Scott Nagy, and retiring Vice President for Student Affairs, Dan Abrahamowicz. Following approval of the minutes, each subcommittee chair described the work of the group and asked for volunteers. Scott Nagy spoke briefly about how the basketball team is developing. Currently the team doesn’t have a true point guard. Coach Nagy trying to train a top scorer from last year to take that job. He’s pretty pleased with the progress of his new recruit at center. On the personal front, his family is settling in to their new location and the family is building a new home in Bellbrook. Vice President Abrahamowicz then offered reflections of his tenure as supervisor of the Athletics Program. He described it as one of his most pleasurable tasks. The meeting concluded with Bob Grant’s Director’s Report. Budget remains a stubborn problem. Some economies have been made, but there is no realistic path to eliminating the budget shortfall of about 1.5 million dollars without cutting sports. Bob continues to seek solutions to this long-standing problem.

**Friends of the Libraries—Gary Barlow**

University Libraries are losing nine positions.

Barlow invited members to partake of the next Friends of the Libraries Workshop, “Knit Kits for a Cause,” on October 13, in which he will be participating and learning how to knit.

Barlow reports that the family of Lewis Shupe is interested in sponsoring a Memorial Tree in the Garden of the Senses.

Two new retirees and association members, Dan Abrahamowicz and Barbara Cwirka, have expressed interest in working with Historical Preservation.

**OCHER—Paul Wolfe (with Dick Williams)**

Wolfe submitted an extended report on the Ocher meeting of September 25, which is too long to be included with these minutes, but has been posted online as a news article.

Health issues for both STRS and OPERS were discussed at OCHER and elicited discussion among the board members.

OPERS members have had mixed feelings about being forced to secure health care coverage through the governmental health exchange. Some members find the process of selecting the best coverage to be difficult. OPERS partially subsidize the cost of the insurance.

STRS health care fund, while still at \$1.3 billion is shrinking and has a limited life before being deleted. A survey of members found they would accept high costs for insurance in order to keep the fund viable for a longer period of time. Depletion of the health fund is inevitable.

A major change to reduce the costs for 2017 is to have in-network retail pharmacies and out-of-network retail pharmacies. There would be an additional copay of \$10 with out-of-network retail pharmacies. CVS and Walgreen will be out-of-network. Most grocery chains, such as Kroger and Meijer, will be in-network.

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
**Gerry Petrak on the Presidential Search**

**Special Report:** Gerry Petrak, WSURA Representative on the Presidential Search Committee.

Here are some of the major points:

A survey was sent via email to students, faculty, and staff and elicited 825 responses in only a few hours. The results of the survey will be compiled, arranged and presented to Academic Search, the professional search firm, for tabulation. They will use the results to produce criteria to describe the nature of the position and to produce a “Presidential profile.”

Public forums have been scheduled:

- Dayton Campus: October 10, 109 Oelman Hall, 2:30 – 4:00 pm
- Boonshoft School of Medicine: October 11, 101 White Hall, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

A Presidential Symposium, scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 – 4:30 pm, will include State Senator Peggy Lehman and Bowling Green State University President Mary Ellen Mayse.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING MADE BY BIRELEY. SECONDED BY WOLFE.  
MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

**The NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING:** Wednesday November 2, 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 9:00 p.m. Thursday, October 6, 2016*  
*October 7 1:00 pm*