

Wright State University Retirees Association Board Meeting, April 1, 2015

Board Members Present: Gary Barlow, Abe Bassett, Marlene Bireley, Peggy Bott, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Rich Johnson, Leone Low, Gary Pacernick, Gerry Petrak, Judy Rose, Jim Sayer, Carol Stevenson, Gail Whitaker, Bob Wagley, Dick Williams and Paul Wolfe

Absent: Donna Curtin, Elizabeth Harden, Rich Johnson, and Lew Shupe.

President Jim Sayer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Bob Wagley made a MOTION to approve the March 4, 2015 Board Minutes; seconded by Gary Barlow: THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President, Jim Sayer –Jim shared the university enrollment report. Undergraduate enrollment dropped slightly from Spring 2014, especially in Liberal Arts. Graduate enrollment increased slightly. (Overall-15,668 UG and 4,022 graduate unduplicated headcount; resulting in an increase of 671 credit hours-0.4%)

Jim, Dick Williams, Gail Whitaker, and Abe Bassett met with Vice-Provost Berberich, our university liaison, to discuss facilities. Liberal Arts will be using our space plus the study atrium area to develop a student success/advising area. We will be moving in the near future to 210 Foundation Building (on the South Campus behind Wendy's). We are being given a large room and the university will supply tables for our meetings and other upgrades.

Jim urged 100% Board participation in the upcoming Fund drive. The Nick Davis WSURA Scholarship now has \$6000 in matching money available to provide incentive for increased or new contributions each of which will be matched up to \$100. In view of the increased solvency of the Nick Davis fund, Abe Bassett moved and Mary Kenton seconded a motion that in the 2015-16 academic year, we award three \$1500 scholarships instead of the current two. Motion passed.

The issue of the doubling of fees to use the fitness facilities (to \$150) was also discussed with Berberich. He acknowledged that the decision was made without retiree representation but thought that it was "a done deal." Gary Pacernick MOVED (Mary Kenton seconded) that "Having been underrepresented at the table, WSURA encourages the administration to find an alternative method and amount of funding to the proposed \$150 in view of the retirees' generosity to the university." After considerable discussion including the fact that Gary P. has approached the director of the fitness center to explore adding a Silver Sneakers designation that would result in no cost under our insurance plan and our upcoming presidential luncheon where the issue could be discussed, a motion to table was made by Paul Wolfe and seconded by Gail Whitaker. Motion passed.

Vice-President, Dick Williams – Dick reported that the plans for the May reunion luncheon are complete and urged all Board members to attend and to invite their friends as well.

Past-President, Abe Bassett- Abe gave a short update on Jim Uphoff.

Secretary, Donna Curtin – On vacation

Treasurer, Gail Whitaker –Prior to the meeting, Gail presented a \$200 Meier's card to the Food Pantry to be used for buying fresh produce, etc. They were most appreciative. She has received our credit card for purchases that should facilitate getting supplies in a timely manner. The reimbursement for student wages is in process. (Sarah did not get work-study for the first few months of the year, but that has now been corrected.) The balance for the university account is now \$3664.35 without the reimbursement. It should be sufficient for the remainder of the year. The dues fund now stands at \$13,107.77 including dues from eleven new members.

Communications, Marlene Bireley –Marlene noted that the Directory has been distributed. Any changes should be sent to Sarah, as keeping accurate information is a never-ending process. Please send information for the summer Extension to her by May 1.

COMMITTEES

Activities, Mary Gromosiak –The final Presidential Lecture will be on April 16 (Steve Baskin, disability advocate).

Reservations for the May 14 Reunion luncheon are beginning to arrive. RSVPs are due by April 15. A university photographer will cover the event. Bookmark gifts for the attendees are at printing. Mary and Gerry approached local businesses to donate door prizes with contributions from Knollwood Gardens (\$25 gift certificate) and Hilton Garden Inn (overnight accommodation) confirmed.

By-laws and Elections, Judy Rose –The slate is complete and will be mailed soon.

Historical Preservation, Lew Shupe –Lew has been working with the Archivists to prepare for the Reunion Luncheon program. Interviews that were cancelled due to the winter weather are being rescheduled in May and June.

Membership, Gerry Petrak –We have received four annual and seven lifetime new memberships. Two of the annual were first year “freebies.”

OCHER, Paul Wolfe

Paul attended the last OCHER meeting. There are no current crises. Requiring state retirement systems to go into the Social Security System is always a background issue for some congressmen, but it doesn't solve the long-term problems. A few congress members are considering repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision as unfair to state workers who earned Soc. Sec. benefits.

The STRS Director of Govt. Relations is optimistic that the new Ohio Retirement Study Council will understand our needs.

There was a proposal that OCHER should study and advocate that universities require brokers coming onto campus to sign an agreement to act as fiduciaries for employees.

Ohio State has recently established OSU Emeritus Academy. It is organized to facilitate emeritus faculty who want to continue scholarly activities such as research, book writing, artistic production, etc.

OPERS has a good web site. One issue there is health care benefits. Medicare receivers got a packet on Connect, the new health care system. For non-Medicare retirees it is not clear yet.

Other retirement organizations:

PERI (www.operi.org) is a lobbying organization. It has a good newsletter.

ORTA is mainly for K-12 teachers.

Scholarship, Mary Kenton –Scholarship applications and deliberations will be done later in the year.

Sunshine, Peggy Bott – WSURA Deaths:

John Ross, March 10. First basketball coach at WSU.

Enrique Pantoja, March 11. Professor of Radiology Science.

Kenneth Kramer, October 22, 2014. Associate Professor of Geological Sciences.

LIAISONS

Athletic Council, Mary Kenton – Athletic Council, Mary Kenton –A report on the Athletics Budget was presented by Larry Prochaska. The annual budget is approximately 10 million, but typically overruns around \$500,000 and sometimes even more. The WSU Athletics budget is typical of Horizon League schools and about 4 million behind MAC schools who have football programs. The recommendation is to initiate a “game plan” to

make a firm budget. Two guests were present (the Sports Information Director and the Compliance Director). The latter discussed the NCAA rulebook that is 400 pages long and incredibly complicated.

A vote was held on changes to the Athletics Council constitution. The most significant item was a recommendation to reduce the Faculty Senate appointments to the council to one. The president will meet with the group in April.

Alumni Association- Elizabeth Harden (absent) and Gary Pacernick. No report.

Friends of Library, Gary Barlow – The annual FOL luncheon will be held on April 15. The speaker will be Dr. Herbert Martin, retired University of Dayton professor, poet and Paul Lawrence Dunbar impressionist and expert.

FOL awarded a staff grant to the Digital Services unit to purchase a photography turntable and software that can be used to create 360-degree images of three-dimensional objects. This will enhance the services that this unit can provide to the campus community.

FOL recently awarded nine scholarships to student library workers that will be active through the current semester and summer.

FOL is increasing board representation for the coming year. Additions include a retired community librarian, WSU Alumni Association Board member, WSU student, and two replacements for retiring Board members. Glenn Graham will be president. Gary, as past-president, and/or Glenn will become the WSURA Liaison.

International, Bob Wagley- Bob encouraged Board members to attend the International event to be held in the Student Union from 3 to 6 p.m. on April 3.

OLD BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS –Abe raised the need for updating some of the areas of the Procedures Manual. The previous Committee (Gail Whitaker, Carol Stevenson, and Marlene Bireley) agreed to take on the task.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next meeting: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 6. Please watch for the email that will clarify whether the meeting will be in the Liberal Arts Conference Room or in our new office, 210 Foundation Building. The meeting will be followed by the annual President's Luncheon in the Student Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bireley
Secretary Pro Tem