

Wright State University Retirees Association Board Meeting, February 4, 2015

Board Members Present: Gary Barlow, Marlene Bireley, Donna Curtin, Mary Gromosiak, Mary Kenton, Leone Low, Gary Pacernick, Judy Rose, Carol Stevenson, Gail Whitaker, Bob Wagley and Dick Williams

Absent: Abe Bassett, Peggy Bott, Elizabeth Harden, Rich Johnson, Gerry Petrak, Jim Sayer, and Lew Shupe

President-elect, Dick Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He made a MOTION to approve the Dec 3, 2014 Board Minutes; seconded by Gary Barlow: THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY A VOICE VOTE.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President, Jim Sayer –absent , on vacation (report given by Dick Williams)

Office Space: there has been a suggestion that we give up our Retiree's Office space so Liberal Arts can open a Student Success Center. Recently, the newly hired Facilities Planner, Chris Haring, and Kathy Warden of Facilities Planning met with Jim and Gail to ask how much we use our office, 134 Oelman Hall. They are checking into some room options for the center and trying to determine our "space needs", also. In the event we are moved to another location, they gave no indication as to where or when. If this occurs, we will need considerable notice to plan for the move and get an estimate on the costs involved.

Vice-President, Dick Williams -

Enrollment: He distributed a report produced by the OBR showing the 14th day spring semester enrollment figures, for both domestic and international students. The figures for undergraduate and graduate domestic students, along with undergraduate international students all show a slight deficit; however, the head count for the international graduate students is up 19.4%. There is speculation by some that Sinclair is pushing to start offering bachelor's degrees in some select technical fields. The average debt for a student to graduate from WSU is approximately \$27,000.

May Spring Banquet Update:

- Invitations will be going out to all WSU Retirees inviting them to our first annual spring banquet, May 14, 2015; the event will also be announced on our web site and through emails.
- The committee is trying to keep the price down to \$20 or less.
- A very nice buffet is being planned with the Nutter Center's new catering service, but it still needs to be finalized.
- Dawn Dewey and Chris Wydman will give a presentation on the university archives. One-third of the Berry Room will have exhibits displayed. Gary B. explained that this will also be a working session; guests will be asked to wear gloves to handle photos and help identify subjects in the photos.
- A sample bookmark design was shown as a possible gift for guests. We need to come up with a catchy theme to attract attention. Some were suggested, but no decision was made. The committee is still open to suggestions until the perfect one is found.
- Dick stressed we are hoping for a good turnout, and asked the group *to please get on board with this effort* by encouraging friends to attend and help *spread the word*. Advertising will take place in the spring *Extension, on the WSURA web site and in emails*.
- Since we will have the rooms until 4:00 pm on May 14, guests may stay and visit until then.

Secretary, Donna Curtin – She will be on vacation during the March and April meetings. Volunteers will be needed to take notes during those meetings. Thank you.

Treasurer, Gail Whitaker –

- She met with Bill Rickert and Shannon Norton in the Provost's Office last week to establish new procedures to get our bills paid. Michael Lowery will continue to be our budget manager, but Gail will work with Shannon on all of our future fiscal needs. A discussion followed regarding which accounts are charged for what expenses.
- WSURA now comes under the umbrella of Associate Provost, Dr. Steven Berberich, He was formerly in Engineering and Computer Science. The suggestion was made to invite him to be a guest speaker following one of our regular meetings--maybe in April.
- Sarah's \$3000 Federal Work Study award did not get loaded into Banner this past fall. Connie Nunamaker is working to correct this omission, and we should get a credit for 75 percent of the wages we have paid so far. When Sarah runs out of Work Study, we will have to switch her to *regular pay status*.
- Dues statements went out to our annual members the last week of January, with the request to recipients submit their dues by February 15. We currently have 187 annual members and 172 lifetime members. *Thanks Gail for lots of work and great progress!*

Communications, Marlene Bireley -

- She will be working on the spring issue of the *Extension* over the next two weeks; the deadline for submissions is Friday, Feb 12. Gail and Mary will gather the banquet details and get them to her for the lead story. Gail will also submit an article explaining the new dues structure, and will make the suggestion to current annual members they may want to consider becoming a lifetime member.
- Regarding the Directory -- she is still waiting for changes regarding members' information, and will continue to wait for submitted changes until after Feb 15.
- The suggestion was made to put a notice in the *Extension* to see if anyone is interested in serving on the Board next year --and contact Judy Rose's contact information.
- Marlene read a nice *Thank You* letter she received from Rosa Tweed expressing her appreciation for the \$1,500 Nick David scholarship award she received from WSURA in December 2014. Rosa also sent a heart-felt apology for accidentally missing our annual holiday luncheon. Marlene told her we are a *very forgiving grandparent-type group*, and not to worry. She would like to invite Rosa to come in and join us for a visit following our March meeting and invite her to lunch, also. Everyone agreed this is a good idea. Our student assistant, Sarah, also missed our December luncheon due to the stomach flu.

Past-President, Abe Bassett – absent, on vacation

COMMITTEES

Activities, Mary Gromosiak – she is working on setting up a couple of activities, one involving the DAI. The 1st Annual Retirees' Reunion (banquet) will be held May 14, and is in the planning stages. Mary welcomed any suggestions for other activities which may of interest to the retirees' membership.

By-laws and Elections, Judy Rose –she has contacted everyone up for re-election to determine if they are willing to run again for the next term. We need a new candidate for the Secretary position. Mary Kenton has agreed to run for the President-elect position, so we will need a replacement for Mary's position on the Scholarship Committee and Athletic Council. Abe and Donna would like to return as At Large members, along with Leone and Carol. Judy said we need some more outside people to serve on the Board. Leon Vandecreek was suggested, and possibly any individuals we know of who have enjoyed coming to some of our activities and events. Glenn Graham was also suggested as a good possibility as a future board member.

Historical Preservation, Lew Shupe – absent; however, Gary B. reported he has tentatively 2 or 3 interviews lined up for March.

Membership, Gerry Petrak – absent, (but she submitted the following report via email): Sarah mailed out brochures last week to new retirees for the year 2014. So far, we have 6 new members and Sarah is still opening incoming mail and keeping her posted on responses.

OCHER, Rich Johnson – absent-- no report.

Scholarship, Mary Kenton - Mary will contact the Scholarship Coordinator for information about the timeline for reviewing applications and making selections. She would like Gary Pacernick and Paul Wolfe to continue as selection committee members.

Sunshine, Peggy Bott - absent, vacation in the sunshine state! (Marlene received Peggy's report via email, and reported on her behalf): Deaths since our December meeting: Susan Vedder, Administrative Assistant, Psychiatry, died Dec. 12, 2014; Patricia Bittner, a Fels Research Associate at the Yellow Springs Clinic (Vernay Labs, NCR Corp.) died Dec. 18; Mary Allot Agna, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of the Dept. of Family Medicine, and Associate Professor of Community Medicine, passed away on Jan. 6, 2015.

LIAISONS

Athletic Council, Mary Kenton – The Athletics Council met on Friday, January 30 in the Student Union. The Coach's Corner guests were the softball and baseball coaches, who talked about their upcoming activities and seasons. The Faculty Senate has asked the Council to prepare a financial review of the Athletics Department. Larry Proschaska will spearhead this effort. Gender Equity will incorporate a discussion of its potential impact on department finances in its annual report. There was also some discussion on the positive role many student athletes play in the community and ways that might generate better publicity for their efforts. Our Athletes are also doing extremely well, academically, and several players have received awards. The next meeting is February 27.

Alumni/Foundation, Elizabeth Harden – absent, no report

Friends of Library, Gary Barlow – Their last two board meetings were snowed out; however, they will have an emergency board meeting next week. The Annual Friends of the Library Luncheon will be held in April, and Gary will have brochures available at the next meeting.

International, Bob Wagley – no report.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS – It was suggested we invite our new administration contact person, Assoc. Provost Steven Berberich, and/or the New Facilities Planner, Chris Haring, to be guest speakers following our April meeting.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Next meeting: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 4, in the Millett Hall Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Curtin
WSURA Board Secretary

February 28, 2015