

WSURA Board Meeting (via Zoom)

October 7, 2020

Present: Robin Suits, Peggy Bott, Gail Whitaker, Mary Gromosiak, Richard Williams, Sheryl Provens, Jerry Alter, Judi Engle, Kathy Morris, Gary Barlow

Absent: Donna Schlagheck, Ruth Schumacher, Gary Pacernick

Special Guests: Scott Rash, President WSU Foundation; Bill Bingham, Interim VP for Advancement

Call to order: 10am via Zoom

I. **Approval of Minutes for September 2, 2020**

-Approved

II. **Officers' Reports:**

President: **Dan Abrahamowicz**

1. Leadership Transition

Officers in place at time of transition

Motion (Gail Whitaker):

In light of the verbal resignation of President Larry Prochaska at our Sept. 2020 board meeting and in accordance with the WSURA Bylaws, I move that the board appoint Dan Abrahamowicz as president and appoint Judi Engle to fill the open position created as president-elect until July 1, 2021, or soon as we are able to hold an election of officers.

Motion approved

2. Secretary Transition

Joyce Howes will serve as interim secretary for several months while Ruth Schumacher is unavailable

3. Richard Mercer – chose to resign from his Board position

Motion to appoint Jerry Alter to replace Richard Mercer as chair of scholarship committee.

Motion approved

4. Events – no report

President-elect: **Judi Engle**

Past President: **Joyce Howes:** no report

Secretary: **Ruth Schumacher** – on leave
Treasurer: **Sheryl Provens**
Budget Update: report distributed
OCHER will not charge us for membership this year
Currently there are three names attached to WSURA office computer account: Mary K will be removed; Gail W and Judi E will remain
Communications: **Mary Kenton**
Planned interview with Athletics
Next Extension will include articles regarding the impact of COVID on students, faculty, staff

III. **Committee Reports:**

Activities: Mary Gromosiak: difficult to plan events due to COVID
Bylaws & Elections: Gail Whitaker: need to replace Richard Mercer as At-Large member
Historical Preserv.: Kathy Morris: no report
Member Devel.: Judi Engle: Mailing produced three new memberships
OCHER: Peggy Bott: OPERS – U of Akron has declared financial exigency; terminated 90 tenured faculty; BG has 1% increase in enrollment and planned layoff canceled; loss of contributing OPERS members could stress fund. Gordon Gatién, OPERS Director of External Relations, reported that they did not expect the General Assembly to consider the OPERS proposal to freeze COLAs for three years this year. However this freeze is definitely needed and they will push for it to be considered next year so it can be implemented January 2022.
Dick Williams: STRS ended year up 3%; some concern about continued contributions meeting the benefit costs; health care costs are not changing; co-pays will increase
Scholarships: No report
Remembrance: Peggy Bott – Deaths reported
Webmaster: Robin Suits: web site visits up 20% from summer; we all should subscribe to WSURA Facebook page

IV. **Liaisons:**

Alumni Affairs: Dick Williams

Community/ Int. Affairs: Donna Schlagheck:

Friends of Libraries: Gary Barlow: 5 book titles for Jim Sayer's Legacy Book; Gary will confer with Donna Schlagheck about the best title to choose

UCIE: Ruth Schumacher: on leave

Athletics Council: Mary Kenton: no recent communications with Council

V. Old Business:

VI. New Business:

Next Exec Cmte Mtg: October 28, 10am (Boardroom)

Next Board meeting: November 4, 10 am (zoom)