

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)
Executive Board Meeting April 28,2022Minutes
Held in person and Zoom audio**

I. Call to order. The Board meeting was called to order on April 28 2022 at 10:04 am by President Rita Klein.

II. Welcome & Announcements: Rita welcomed in-person attendees and requested they speak distinctly and clearly towardthe microphone so Zoom attendees could hear the proceedings.

Members attending: Jo Ann Collier, Bob Gandee, John Heminger, Rita Klein, Carl Lieberman (audio), Dick Steiner (Zoom), Harvey Sterns, Linda Sugarman, Tom Vukovich, Martha Vye, Mel Vye.

Absent with notice: Cathy Edwards, Ali Hajjfar, Tom Nichols, Dan Sheffer, Laura Spitler, Mary Verstraete, Diane Vukovich. Absent: Tim Lillie.

III. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the March 24 2022 Board meeting were approved as distributed.

IV. Treasurer’s Report. John Heminger reported:

March 2022

UA Account income: dues \$24.00, luncheon proceeds \$523.00.

UA Account expenses: luncheon \$445.11.

Petty Cash income: \$0.00.

Petty Cash expenses: \$0.00.

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial balance	\$8,390.37	\$243.99	\$8634.36
Income	\$547.00	\$0.00	\$547.00
Expenses	\$445.11	\$0.00	\$445.11
Final balance	\$8,492.26	\$243.99	\$8,736.25
March 2021			
Final balance	\$8,390.57	\$79.40	\$8,469.97

The report was approved subject to audit.

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V. Corresponding Secretary. No report

VI. Committee Reports.

A. Programs: Tom Vukovich reported:

1.April 20 Wednesday Luncheon program (in-person) Dr. Gerald Newsom, OSU faculty retiree, OCHER representative to STRS board speaking about his perspective of STRS pension management. The program was well received. Bob Gandee introduced the speaker. The meeting was recorded and made available virtually soon after.

Reservation dates for the third Wednesdays for the next two years have been requested from food service.

2.May 20Friday - Special Event. Lobster and Suds at Zwisler Hall St Sebastian's Catholic Church. Help is needed for various tasks. Dan Sheffer is not going to be able to attend.

3.April 22The road trip to downtown Canton included 22 attendees. The guided tour included city history, public art, visits to the McKinley Monument, the National First Ladies Library, the Saxton House, McKinley's historic church, and an art gallery. The Canton Palace Theater was part of the tour though the original planned performance was unavailable that day. The lunch at Bender's Tavern was very popular.

5.The Fall 2022 Soup and Chili event will be held Thursday November 3rdat Goodyear Metro Park in the West Room. Everyone will be asked to contribute \$5.

B. Membership: Mel Vye reported that he and Dan completed the revision of the spreadsheet that tracks membership data. Allie Schwartz of Human Resources also is conversant with the new spreadsheet. There are 245 active members paid through June 2022 and 5 active members paid up through June 2023.

C. Political Action. Bob Gandee reported on recent activities affecting pensions many of which were highlighted in luncheon program with Dr. Newsom.. Election of retiree members on the STRS Board is drawing attention from numerous stakeholders and the impact of social media especially demoralizing. Bob suggested becoming familiar with the Fordham Foundation in Dayton Ohio and their influence on legislators.

D Benefits. Linda Sugarman reported:

Supplemental retirement annuity: Retirees who had supplement retirement annuities from their years at UA may have received booklets about changes in the Supplemental Retirement Annuity at the University of Akron. None of the

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changes affect those who are no longer making contributions. There still may be choices for moving money around within individual annuities.

Parking: The director of parking said they are developing an online mechanism to register for free parking privileges. Those faculty who do not use online mechanisms will be able to call in their information. We will be notified when the new system is in place, including the length of the registration period.

Email addresses: Retirees are allowed to retain their email addresses. Changes are being made to the email system which may affect retirees who use their UA email addresses.

E. Faculty Senate. Harvey Sterns read excerpts of the transcript of the April 7 2022 meeting and asked that the full text be appended to the AUAR meeting minutes: The full transcript with appendices may be viewed online at www.uakron.edu/facultysenate/

F. University & Community Service/Website. Dan Sheffer said it will be up to date as soon as he returns.

G. Scholarship. Chair position is open.

H. Newsletter. Martha Vye reported the Fall newsletter is ongoing; she forwards materials as soon as they are received. The newsletter will be mailed in late August. She is pursuing the suggestions offered about possible interviewees for the “Conversations” section of the newsletter. Photos are welcome.

VII. Old Business.

Nominations Committee. The AUAR election results are being brought forward by the Nominations Committee and was approved by acclamation.

Vice President	Cathy Edwards	2 yr term
Treasurer	John Heminger	2 yr term
Recording Secretary	Mary C. Verstraete	2 yr term
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Sugarman	2 yr term
Public Relations Officer	Martha Vye	2 yr term

Members at large of Executive Board

Dick Steiner	2 yr term
Mary Schadle	2 yr term
Connie Heldenfels	2 yr term

Faculty Senate*	Ali Hajjafar	2 yr term
	Harvey Sterns	2 yr term

*The official election results form required by Faculty Senate was forwarded to the Faculty Senate office by President Rita Klein.

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VIII. New Business. Tom Vukovich asked about authorization to pay for a lunch for staff employees who provide much needed help to AUAR to carry out functions. This used to be done regularly in the past. It was agreed that this should be reinstated. Several members said they would help him come up with a list of names.

IX. Good of the Order.

It was noted that Pam Rupert's son who lived in the state of Washington died after prolonged severe health problems.

X. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted:

JoAnn Collier, Recording Secretary

Next meeting will be May 26, 2022 in person/via Zoom at 10:00am in Infocision Board Room

- Meeting Schedule for 2021-22:
 - 2021 August 26; September 23; October 28; December 2
 - 2022 January 27; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 26; June 23
 - Photos of the board taken at the June meeting

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF

April 7, 2022

The meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, April 7, 2022 in Teams. Senate Chair Kathryn Budd called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Of the current roster of 43 senators, 31 attended the meeting. Senators Bible, Biddle, Bisconti, Evans, Frey, Sahai and Sterns were absent with notice. Senators Goodell, Mudrey-Camino, Palmer, Sahl and Tsigie were absent without notice.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Budd announced two changes to the agenda; Senator Hartsock will read the reports for the Akron-AAUP and GSG. Chair Budd called for further additions or corrections to the agenda

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of April 7, 2022. Hearing none, Chair Budd declared the agenda approved by unanimous consent.

II. Adoption of minutes of March 3, 2022 meeting

Chair Budd called for additions or corrections to the minutes of March 3, 2022. Hearing none, Chair Budd declared the minutes approved by unanimous consent.

III. Remarks of the Chair

Welcome to the March meeting of faculty senate. Senators who wish to be recognized should type “request” into the chat window and wait for me to recognize you. If I mispronounce your name, let me know the correct pronunciation so I can do better next time. To preserve bandwidth for all, turn off your mics and cameras until you are called on to speak.

As mentioned previously, please be aware that both senate meetings and minutes are part of the public record, and members of the media are in attendance.

Today, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will ask this body to consider the endorsement of a resolution in response to Ohio House Bill 327. The resolution was made by the Faculty Congress of Ohio, a joint body made up of the Ohio Faculty Senate and the Ohio Faculty Council which represent the faculty from Ohio’s 23 community and technical colleges and 14 public universities.

Wherever you fall on the political spectrum, I hope you are committed to keeping the curriculum under the purview of the faculty content experts and free from the influence of whichever political party happens to hold the majority, be it Republican or Democrat. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has voted to endorse the resolution and I am asking you to join your voice with those of our colleagues across Ohio to send a clear message of support for this resolution.

At our last informal meeting, we discussed our concerns regarding student mental health, and how we handle academic and attendance expectations when we (hopefully) return to

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normalcy in the fall. When I found out that the Undergraduate Student Government had surveyed students on the mental health issues they were facing, I invited Senator Kasunic to share the results with the senate. She graciously offered to run a brand-new survey to get the most recent data possible, and you will hear the results during the USG report today.

At our May meeting, we will hold the election for the position of Secretary. The duties of the Secretary include keeping notes for our regular meetings with the Provost, working with Heather Loughney to create the minutes for each senate meeting and generally arranging the orderly conduct of the senate. The Secretary is a member of the Executive Committee and as such attends the twice monthly EC meetings and our monthly meeting with the Provost. Now that I've served on the Executive Committee for nearly a year, I can report that this team is a pleasure to work with, and the work we do is meaningful and rewarding. Please consider running for this important position, you can contact myself or any other EC member if you would like more information.

This concludes the remarks of the chair.

IV. Special Announcements

Mrs. Leona W. Farris passed away Feb. 27, 2022, at age 104. Mrs Farris was a civil rights and social justice advocate who lived in the service and advancement of others. As an undergraduate at The Ohio State University she was involved in the integration of the dormitories. The first African American woman hired as an assistant professor at UA, Mrs. Farris spent more than 50 years in campus and community life.

A Cleveland, Ohio native, Mrs. Farris joined UA in 1969 as an assistant professor of consumer education and child development in the School of Home Economics and Family Ecology. She founded the department's community involvement program and, later, fellow faculty established the Leona W. Farris Scholarship in her honor to support underrepresented students majoring in child or family development.

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She retired from UA in 1988 as an emeritus faculty member in the UA Institute for Lifespan Development and Gerontology and remained a very active member of the Board at the Dr. Shirla R. McClain Gallery of Akron Black History and Culture.

The senate joined in a moment of silence to mark the passing of our former colleague.

V. Report of the Executive Committee

Since our last meeting in March, the Executive Committee has met three times.

The provost joined us for one of those meetings.

We discussed enrollment, Stellic implementation, safety initiatives, student mental health, the interdisciplinary council, and proposed changes to the part-time faculty university rule.

Today, the EC is bringing forward the following motion:

Motion to endorse the Faculty Congress of Ohio resolution

We move that the University of Akron faculty senate endorse the resolution made by the Faculty Congress of Ohio, February 2022, in response to Ohio House Bill 327.

Chair Budd asked for debate on the motion; none ensued. A vote was taken, 24 senators voted unanimously in support of the motion; none were opposed.

For more information on these discussions, please contact Angela Hartsock.

VI. Remarks of the President

President Miller began by speaking to the ongoing focus on safety initiatives both on and off-campus. He continues to meet with Director Jackson and is giving frequent updates to the Board of Trustees. Recent activities include meetings with landlords, an increased police presence, bringing the camera system online, and talking with students.

President Miller extended a save the date for April 28th at 9:00AM for an informal gathering in the Student Union Ballroom for campus fellowship and a brief end-of-term update from

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President Miller, Provost Wiencek, and CFO Grundy. This will include an update on strategic planning, enrollment, and a look forward to summer and fall.

President Miller reminded the senate of upcoming commencements in May.

President Miller acknowledged the provost and the provost's office for their work in filling key leadership positions at the university. He is encouraged by the high-quality candidates and feels we are already seeing the benefits from recent hires in the School of Business and Law School.

President Miller thanked Senior Vice Provost Hendricks for her work on the upcoming HLC fall visit. He noted this is important work and there will be an opportunity for faculty fellows to assist in the process.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on April 27th, anyone can attend.

President Miller provided an update on the COVID response. The response team continues to monitor the situation and provide reports; they are keeping up with variants and UA will be ready to react if necessary.

President Miller and Mrs. Miller have been traveling for alumni gatherings across the country. They are receiving good follow up from alumni with upcoming visits planned for Washington, Boston, Cleveland, and New York. Some deans are being looped into these alumni engagement efforts.

President Miller invited questions.

No questions were offered.

VII. Remarks of the Provost

Following up on President Miller's statements, Provost Wiencek acknowledged the team effort involved in the hiring for leadership positions on campus. He also found the search consultant to be a highly effective and affordable model; he gave a call out to Jennifer Muller and her team at Academic Career and Executive Search.

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Enrollment: The provost pointed to steady performance in enrollment and a modest increase in year-over-year gains. He stressed this could slip away and encouraged everyone to keep the energy high, continue to meet with students and parents on campus, speak positively, and get students excited. An important part of this is guiding students toward registration and a preliminary fall schedule that makes them already feel like a student. The provost noted that some registration issues experienced during COVID are going more smoothly now with a greater presence on campus and reflective improvements. He acknowledged the work of Kim Gentile's team and thanked everyone with encouragement to continue the good work with an eye on summer melt and the importance of summer contact.

Reappointment Tenure Promotion Process: The process has been completed for this year; approvals are complete at the provost and president level and will be sent to the board. He thanked all faculty involved in the review process.

Leadership Searches: Provost Wiencek announced with pleasure the appointment of

Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval as VP for Student Pathways and Dean of the Honors College. She will be joining UA by the end of the month which will ensure a good overlap with interim VP Urgo to ensure a smooth handoff. Craig Menzemer is the sole finalist for Dean of the College of Engineering and Polymer Science; his candidacy was warmly received, and an appointment announcement is expected soon. The search committee for the VP for Enrollment Management is gathering feedback from campus visits and the administration anticipates extending an offer within the next week, with an appointment announcement by the end of the month. Candidates for the Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences are visiting campus. Four strong candidates have been identified for the Vice Provost of Research and Business Engagement. Provost Wiencek feels that candidates see the momentum and feel the excitement at UA and are eager to be part of moving forward.

Provost Fellows: Three faculty fellows have been identified for the strategic planning and support of the accreditation process. Details are being finalized.

Data Analytics: The provost announced the departure of Matt Gullata, Director of Data Analytics for the Planning Strategies and Insights (PSI) group. He has found a great job at a non-profit institution. With strong internal candidates, Associate Director Muthireddy will step into

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the director role; as a frontline student-facing data person with expertise in data management, Associate Director Muthireddy can pick up the task from Director Gullata. Senior Analyst Drennen will be promoted and staffing up in that area will be a priority moving forward.

WorkDay ERP: Provost Wiencek noted that kick off meetings for the new WorkDay ERP have started. It is anticipated that we will be ready to go live in roughly a year. He encouraged everyone to engage with training, ask questions, and identify and report problems to allow quick implementation of solutions.

Provost Wiencek invited questions.

Senator Klein requested information on the ad hoc Academic Investment Committee (AIC) composition and requested clarification on calls for soliciting membership.

Chair Budd explained that we have been waiting on the ad hoc Investment Criteria Committee to present their work to senate, then the AIC will be formed in the fall. There will be a request for volunteers and the AIC will be included in the list of available senate committees. After that point, a call for proposals will be sent by the AIC committee.

Provost Wiencek elaborated that this year has been more informal with the CFO having budget meetings with deans and deans bringing forward proposals from chairs. The financial situation does not allow for satisfying all requests and needs; the CFO is balancing needs and building the most compelling requests into the budget for the president and board.

VIII. Approval of List of Graduates for Spring 2022

Chair Budd called for a motion to approve the list of Graduates for Spring 2022. Senator Stoyhoff motioned to approve the list; Senator Saliga seconded the motion. Chair Budd asked for objections to adoption by unanimous consent; none were voiced. The list of Graduates for Spring 2022 was approved by unanimous consent.

IX. Committee Reports

Computing and Communications Technology Committee – Chair Randby

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Chair Randby read the motion from CCTC in support of the Information Security Awareness Training Policy. He then provided additional rationale focused on our need to stay current on cybersecurity.

Chair Budd called for debate on the motion. Chair Budd acknowledged the work and organization that went into the policy. Senator Nicholas voiced support for the policy. Senator Kasunic asked for clarification on the non-compliance piece for students; Senator Randby indicated they would work with students regarding compliance. Senator Klein reiterated the need to improve The Digest emailing so that training announcements are not missed.

With no apparent opposition, the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

X. AAUP report— Toni Bisconti

Read by Angela Hartsock on behalf of Toni Bisconti:

Just a quick update from your Akron-AAUP. First of all, I'm sorry I'm not able to make it this semester. I teach a graduate seminar from 12:55 until 4:30 on Thursdays.

The majority of this semester has been spent continuing our efforts on quantifying our "workload" policies through our labor management policy committee that is a joint committee between Akron-AAUP and the Administration. We continue to make progress and have engaged with a subset of Chairs and Associate Deans on our work so far; however, we still have nothing concrete to present. We will have a fuller update in our end of the year communication. I'm also thrilled to report that one of our RIF'd colleagues will be reinstated through an arbitration case on which we prevailed. We will send more detailed information out about that in the week or so to come. Finally, please look for our next Chapter communication as we will be announcing several activities for the end of the semester and over the summer for some as an opportunity to get to know each other more personally! Thank you. Toni

XI. Graduate Council report—Senator Graor

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Senator Graor updated the senate on efforts to improve mentoring of graduate students involved in teaching and research. The council is looking at a more formalized mentoring process that is timely and includes a productive progression that positions the student for advancement and employment in a variety of settings. Some forms are being developed and comments will be solicited from deans and directors.

For graduate students wishing to complete a certificate program, GC voted to support current graduate students in adding certificates to their degree or program of study without paying the certificate admission fee.

The graduate school is offering a variety of events and workshops to support and show appreciation to our graduate students.

Problems with the Target X application process are being addressed.

XII. GSG report—Senator Frey

Read by Angela Hartsock on behalf of Senator Frey.

The GSG has received very few submissions for the Graduate Student Appreciation request for words of encouragement and appreciation. I will share the link in the chat, it has also been sent in the digest recently. https://akron.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1LJNkGPUwXJtARU

GSG is currently accepting election applications due by end-of-day Monday, April 11th. Please encourage students to apply!

GSG submitted a health insurance survey data report to Dr. Messina and Dallas Grundy. GSG hopes to share it with the university community in the coming weeks.

XIII. USG report—Senator Kasunic

Senator Kasunic announced her successor, newly elected President of USG, James Garchar.

Senator Kasunic led USG in an effort to complete a new survey on student mental health. This replaces data collected two years ago and reflects the current state of mental health on

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campus. The USG partnered with Active Minds, led by Senator Hustak, for the survey. Active Minds is a student-led organization that advocates for reduced stigma around mental health and provides peer-to-peer mentorship and collaboration.

For the survey, there were 350 participants, including students, staff, and faculty. Senator Kasunic reviewed the results of the survey. She noted some encouraging data indicating improvement in some measures of mental health while also noting data that may indicate students face challenges when transitioning to major's level work in their third and fourth year.

Senator Kasunic invited questions. Chair Budd noted interesting differences between on-campus (residential) students and off-campus students. Senator Graor asked about the number of post-graduate participants. Senator Kasunic noted a couple PhD and Post-Graduate students. Chair Budd noted that the report will be kept in the Senate Teams file to make it accessible. She expressed hope but an awareness of more work to be done. She thanked USG for their quick efforts to gather current data. Senator Kasunic noted any member of the campus community can still participate in the survey; data can be updated as participation increases.

XVI. Report of University Council Representatives – Senator Evans

Report submitted by Kris Kraft.

The University Council met on March 8th, 2022.

President Miller spoke to the body regarding the Spring commencement. It will be held in the JAR. He spoke that he and Georgia have doing a lot of traveling and visiting alumni. President Miller talked about moving aggressively on safety initiatives. He was with meeting two new police officers that day. The University has camera projects in place, the Block by Block project is in place and they are talking with the local landlords. Various meetings with city are going well. President Miller also stated that he loves working on the food truck committee.

Provost Wiencek addressed University Council by first addressing the situation in Ukraine. Many in our community who are feeling the stress personally. He sent out an appeal to reassure and comfort all where we need to and to link them to resources and others know if you need help. He let us know that we will be using the software, Stellic, to help with advising and student

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success. He hopes that for implementation as soon as summer. Many searches are continuing, dean searches, VP searches, VP Provost for student pathways and Dean of Honors. The Candidate for Dean of Engineering and Poly Sci will be interviewing in next week or so and anticipate report after spring break and moving forward. VP of Research and engagement – candidate pools have been strong, looking forward to hearing about finalists after spring break. The Fall enrollment is going well, confirmations are holding, there is still a lot of time to go and things to do. Next thing we need to do is to get students enrolled. We need to stay engaged with students over the summer. We've really had a great team effort and thank you all for your work and enthusiasm.

In regard to Covid, in general, things are looking like we can get back to pre-COVID days. Please be patient with those who cannot get vaccinated. Faculty have been given autonomy in their classrooms. We appreciate everyone's ability to deal with the last two years of changes. Be respectful and patient with each other.

The provost expressed thanks to UC and FS for their work over the past two years

IT Committee Presented a resolution regarding training regarding cybersecurity training policy for the campus. The resolution passed:

Poll: Yes 21 No 0 Abstain 0

All Committee Reports are posted on the UC website. <https://www.uakron.edu/uc/>

XVII. New Business

None.

XVIII. Good of the Order

Chair Budd announced that we will have a social event after the next informal senate meeting with the president and provost.

XIX. Adjournment

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Chair Budd adjourned the meeting at 4:02 pm.

—Angela Hartsock, Secretary.

Questions and comments about the minutes can be emailed to ahartsock1@uakron.edu.