

**University of Iowa Retirees Association  
(UIRA)  
Board of Directors**

**December 13, 2022  
Hybrid Meeting: In-Person and Zoom**

**Attending:** Mike Barron, Deb Cobb, Ed Dove, David Fitzgerald, Lesanne Fliehler, Mike Hovland, Pat Mason-Browne, Billie Townsend, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, Vicki Siefers, Carolyn Wanat  
**Not attending:** Maureen McCormick

**Call to Order – Ed Dove, President**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

**Reports from Officers**

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion from Mike Barron, seconded by Mike Hovland, the November 8 minutes were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer – David Fitzgerald**

The current checking account balance is \$18,562.64. Operating expenses totaled \$91.36: \$81.18 for NEON and \$10.18 for *The Gray Hawk* printing and postage. The reserve fund has \$12,281.21.

**President-Elect – Deb Cobb**

There is a survey of emeriti faculty that could strengthen UIRA connection with that group.

**President – Ed Dove**

See below under **Old Business** and **New Business**.

**Reports from Committees**

***The Gray Hawk* – Lesanne Fliehler**

Lesanne noted that there will be a new request for content deadline: first of the month instead of the sixth. Content deadlines will vary each month. Lesanne will send out deadlines with her request for content on the first of each month.

### **Membership –**

Ed will provide membership information at a later date.

### **Program Committee – Carolyn Wanat**

Recent events: all Zoom programs were recorded and posted to the UIRA's working / mock-up website <https://orguira.prod.drupal.uiowa.edu/>

- On November 3 Gary Schwartz, Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselor, gave his annual presentation (via Zoom) on issues to consider in selecting insurance plans. (60 attendees; updated number).
- There were 62 attendees for the Thursday, November 10 Zoom Annual Insurance Options Q&A Session, presented by Sonatina Fernandes, UI benefits specialist, and Anne Thurston, community and broker liaison with Health Alliance Medical Plans. Responses to Chat inquiries are posted on the UIRA website.
- Twenty members attended the Stanley Museum of Art November 18 tour, for a total 65 attendees at all tours. Carolyn again thanked Evalyn for the success of these events.
- President Wilson's annual state of the University address, December 1 via Zoom (20 attendees).
- Thirty-six members attended the December 6 Zoom Conversation with Andre Perry, Director, Hancher Auditorium.
- Ten volunteers helped with the December 12 Flippin' into Finals pancake breakfast, attended by 1100 students. Volunteers bused tables and handled the cleanup. This was a fun way to engage with the polite and appreciative students.

Upcoming spring 2023 programs include:

- Lulu Merle Johnson: Our County's New Namesake. Royceann Porter, vice chairperson of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and David McCartney, UI archivist emeritus. Tuesday, January 17, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Overview of the UI's 10-Year Facilities Master Plan. Rod Lehnertz, senior vice president for finance and operations and UI architect. Monday, February 6, 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- Psychological and Brain Sciences Research. Mark Blumberg, F. Wendell Miller Professor and chair of the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. Wednesday, March 1, 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- Tour of Hancher Auditorium. Wednesday, May 3, 1:00 p.m.
- Phebe Timber Spring Hike. Friday, May 19, 9:00 a.m.

Submission deadline for the Photo Contest is January 31. Carolyn will contact past judges Larry Mendenhall and Tim Schoon about serving again. Hills Bank & Trust Company again will provide award funding.

## Old Business

Ed asked for updates on subcommittee work (subcommittee **leader**).

- Funded Retirement and Insurance Committee (FRIC): *determine best route to establish influence on decisions that affect retirees (special attention to health benefits, rates, etc.)* [David, Billie, Maureen, Deb]

David attended the most recent meeting, which included a report on very busy usage at Urgent Care / Quick Care. There is still no information on how insurance rates are determined for retirees.

- Operations Manual (OM): *determine best method for establishing UIRA presence.* [Evalyn, Lesanne, Ed, Pat]

Evalyn reported that the President's Office has approved the UIRA proposal for inclusion. Ed will contact that office to determine the status for final approval. He thanked Evalyn for her leadership on this effort.

- UIRA/UI interaction: *marketing and promoting to the University, prospective retirees, and the community.* [Mike Barron, Mike Hovland, Lesanne, Vicki, Evalyn, Pat, Carolyn]

The consensus is that UIRA should connect with existing programs:

Food Pantry –

- Match UIRA member donations 1-to-1 for up to a determined amount (\$500 or \$1000). Any donation should include UIRA on the check's subject line. David will check with Nate Robinson, director of finance, President's Office, for information.
- Arrange for a presentation by student participants. Mike Barron recommended contacting Steph Beecher, basic needs and care coordinator, Dean of Students Office, 135 Iowa Memorial Union (IMU), 319-335-1162, [stephanie-beecher@uiowa.edu](mailto:stephanie-beecher@uiowa.edu), to determine where she needs help. Deb will also contact Sarah Hansen, vice-president for Student Life.

## New Business

Mike Hovland will follow up with Rebecca Olson, director, University Benefits, about acquiring the names of deceased retirees. UIRA does not need to duplicate any information already available online. As UIRA president, Ed sends a condolence card to the family. In the case of board or committee service there also could be inclusion in *The Gray Hawk*.

There was continued discussion about including UIRA events in the University Calendar as a way to increase visibility. Anyone with a University ID can submit announcements.

The University of Iowa's Center for Advancement's One Day for Iowa fundraising effort is scheduled for March 29, 2023. Ed will attend the training session for this 24-hour event. In

2022 UIRA scholarship contributions totaled \$2,022, slightly double the amount in 2021. UIRA will send an email to the membership (with a link to its account); include notices in the February and March issues of *The Gray Hawk*; and a special email reminder from Ed a few days before the event.

Kellie Digmann will manage the official UIRA email address ([ui-ra@uiowa.edu](mailto:ui-ra@uiowa.edu)).

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

**Next meeting** – January 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., Hybrid format (In-Person and Zoom)