

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

**February 14, 2023  
Hybrid Meeting: In-Person and Zoom**

**Attending:** Mike Barron, Deb Cobb, Ed Dove, David Fitzgerald, Lesanne Fliehler, Mike Hovland, Pat Mason-Browne, Vicki Siefers, Billie Townsend, Carolyn Wanat

**Not attending:** Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

**Reports from Officers**

**Approval of Minutes**

The January 10 minutes were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer – David Fitzgerald**

Dave clarified that the NEON fee remains in effect; the contract is very close to ending. The checking balance is \$18,193.44. The Vanguard account, \$12,526.42, has increased by \$300. He will check on the balance in the endowed scholarship account.

**President-Elect – Deb Cobb**

While Deb serves as the current UIRA liaison to the Emeritus Faculty Council (EFC), Ed will ask that organization to appoint a liaison. He clarified that UIRA, with mostly staff members, is broader in focus than EFC. Unlike UIRA, EFC guest speakers present to its board (although the year-end meeting is for all members). EFC has memberships on University Charter Committees and advises the assistant provost for faculty on exceptions to emeritus status. Although UIRA and EFC have different scope, purposes, and programmatic efforts, an EFC liaison to our organization would be beneficial.

**Past-President – Carolyn Wanat**

Carolyn has been unable to locate scholarship award letters to previous UIRA scholarship recipients. Mike Barron offered to contact Student Financial Aid for information.

## **President – Ed Dove**

Phil Klein and Lin Larson are working to launch the new UIRA website by April.

Ed will attend the March 29 training session for the Center for Advancement's One Day for Iowa fundraising project.

Ed contacted board members earlier about the University of Michigan's inquiry to Big Ten retiree associations: in what ways have retirees benefited? He will prepare a short document comparing Iowa with other Big Ten associations.

## **Reports from Committees**

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

The March issue's layout is completed and has been sent to content providers for review. Lesanne will send the final copy (February 16-17) to Kellie for mailing (21-22). The issue will include the UIRA web and email addresses, as well information from Mike Hovland about nominations for open board positions.

### **Membership –**

Committee members Vicki, Lesanne, and Deb are charged to develop ways to contact retirees: e.g., a brochure for inclusion in the Human Resources retiree packet (as was the case years ago). Completion by the end of the current semester would be an ideal time to connect with a large number of retirees.

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

The following programs have been completed since the last board meeting:

- Lulu Merle Johnson: Our County's Namesake, Tuesday, January 17: 33 attendees
- Overview of the UI's 10-Year Facilities Master Plan, Monday, February 6: 54 attendees
- Inside the Hawkeye Marching Band, Tuesday, February 14: 31 attendees. A link to the Elton John tribute will be available.

Upcoming confirmed programs:

- Creating a More Resilient Community Food System in Johnson County. Michelle Kenyon, executive director of Field to Family (F2F). Tuesday, February 21, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Why Do Babies Sleep Like Babies? Sleep Across the Lifespan. 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.

- Title IX and 50 Years in Women's Athletics at the UI. Paula Jantz, retired senior associate director of athletics. Monday, April 3, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.
- State of the Iowa City School District. Matt Degner, superintendent. Wednesday, April 19 at 1:00 p.m.
- Tour of Hancher Auditorium. Wednesday, May 3, 1:00 p.m. (Registration will be required through *The Gray Hawk*.)
- Phebe Timber Spring Hike. Monday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. (Registration will not be required.)
- Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social. Thursday, June 15, 2:00-4:00 p.m., 2520D University Capitol Center (UCC). Registration will be required through *The Gray Hawk*. Refreshments will be paid from our bank account. We have the room reserved at 1:30 to allow time for set up. Using this room allows for a hybrid format for our first meeting in three years.

The committee is planning for the second meeting of the year with the UI Presidents' office as part of the second programming slot allotted under the Memorandum of Understanding, in exchange for the technical support we receive from the University. A staff member of Sarah Hanson's will present to UIRA via Zoom; possible dates are April 12, 24, and 27.

### **Old Business**

Dave reported on the Retirement Fund Investment Committee (RFIC) and its influence on decisions affecting retirees. Unlike the Funded Retirement and Insurance Committee (FRIC), the RFIC "Committee responsibility includes the establishment of a formal, prudent process to making retirement plan investment option decisions consistent with fiduciary responsibilities." A fiduciary responsibility involves actions taken in the best interests of another person or entity. Ed will set up a meeting with UI President Wilson (and Carolyn as past-president and Deb as president-elect) to discuss UIRA participation: either to address RFIC or to join it.

Billie, who is the only member of the awards committee, would like to rotate off. Mike Barron volunteered to replace her.

Fifty-six names have been submitted to the nominating committee (Mike Hovland, Vicki and Carolyn) to fill UIRA board vacancies. The committee will make a recommendation to the president to appointment a replacement to complete Maureen McCormick's term.

Ed will resend to the board updated text for inclusion in the Operations Manual.

Mike Barron is waiting for input from the Office of Student Life on opportunities for UIRA-UI interaction.

There are 24 entries to the Photo Contest: 6 international; 10 Iowa; and 8 USA. Contest judges Larry Mendenhall and Tim Schoon will provide results by March 6. Once winners have been notified, Lesanne will include information in *The Gray Hawk*. Dave has received the \$500.00 donation check from Hills Bank and will distribute the monetary awards.

## **New Business**

Sarah Hanson's office has oversight as advisor to more than 300 student organizations, advisor for 1<sup>st</sup> Generation students, and the student emergency fund of \$1500 (plus donations) benefitting 3,000 students a year. As reported above by the Program Committee, Ed, Carolyn, and Deb met with Sarah to discuss ways UIRA can contribute to student life. Today Ed suggested UIRA focus on perhaps one or two tasks for our interaction with students.

Renewed discussion of policies and procedures for UIRA dues collection included annual versus multiple-year payment and start date for payment. Mike Barron moved and Deb seconded to extend membership to all upon retirement, with official start of dues payment (and thus acceptance of membership) to begin by a specific date. The motion was approved unanimously.

Prior to today's meeting Ed had provided a draft of rewritten UIRA bylaws. He asked board members will contact him with any edits.

## **Adjourn**

On a motion from Carolyn, seconded by Billie, the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

**Next meeting** – March 14, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., Hybrid format (In-Person and Zoom)