

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

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

Attending: Mike Barron, Ed Dove, Lesanne Fliehler, Pat Mason-Browne, Billie Townsend, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, Carolyn Wanat

Not attending: Deb Cobb, David Fitzgerald, Mike Hovland, Vicki Siefers

Call to Order – Ed Dove, President

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

General Announcements

The board expressed its condolences to Billie and Orville Townsend on the loss of their son.

The launch date for the new UIRA website is either March 15 or 16.

Reports from Officers

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Mike Barron, seconded by Lesanne, the February 14 minutes were approved as corrected.

Past-President – Carolyn Wanat

See the program committee report below.

President – Ed Dove

Ed emailed members about the One Day for Iowa event. The deadline for contributions is March 29. A minimum \$5 donation per member would earn \$3000 for the UIRA scholarship, one of the ways we support students. Billie noted that that the Center for Advancement matches an extra \$500 based on the number of donors, not the amount donated. Ed will include this information in next week's email reminder.

Reports from Committees

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

Lesanne is expecting information about an upcoming Emeritus Faculty Council (EFT) event before finalizing the March issue. She will be sending a content request to contributors. There are 10 *Gray Hawk* print copies mailed each month.

Membership –

Lesanne shared a report from Vicki. The committee has had some email discussions about an updated UIRA brochure. It would be good to include some fresh professional staged photos of retirees. Lesanne has asked Kelli to investigate the name of a contact person in Human Resources (HR), whether the University employs a photographer, and whether UIRA can use University facilities to print a brochure. If facilities are unavailable, are there UIRA funds for this project? A brochure could be available as soon as May.

Program Committee – Carolyn Wanat

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

- Michelle Kenyon: Creating a More Resilient Community Food System in Johnson County, Tuesday, February 21: 16 attendees.
- Mark F. Blumberg, Why Do Babies Sleep Like Babies? Sleep Across the Lifespan, Wednesday, March 1: 29 attendees.

Upcoming confirmed programs for the remainder of the year:

- 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.
- Engaging with Today's Students. Steph Beecher, basic needs coordinator, UI Office of Student Life. Wednesday, April 12, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
- State of the Iowa City Community 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*. (Ed clarified that the new dues membership site is not equipped to manage RSVPs for

the Annual Meeting). Refreshments will be paid from the UIRA bank account. We have the room reserved at 1:30 to allow time for set up. Using this room facilitates a hybrid format for our first meeting in three years.

Carolyn has been compiling (and will pass along to Ed) a file with programming requests for 2023-2024.

Old Business

Mike Barron, reporting for Mike Hovland and the **nominating committee**, notes that there is only one position remaining to be filled. Ed congratulated the committee on its excellent work in formulating an election slate.

As the only member of the **awards committee**, Billie has forwarded the names of prospective recipients to Mike Barron and Carolyn. There are 3 nominees: 2 for service awards and 1 for a university service award. Each awardee will receive \$100 to be donated to a favorite charity. Recipients will be announced at the Annual Meeting (and featured in *The Gray Hawk*).

Ed, Carolyn, and Deb met with Laura McLeran and Cheryl Reardon about UIRA inclusion in the **Operations Manual**. The Office of the President has advised deferring this request. Ed reiterated that inclusion is important for the continuation of UIRA and its service to future retirees.

Mike Barron reported that the ad hoc **UIRA-UI interaction committee** is waiting for suggestions from Sarah Hansen. The projected closing of the Iowa House and its conversion into a wellness center might provide an appropriate opportunity for UIRA participation.

Photo Contest judges Larry Mendenhall and Tim Schoon have selected winners. The first-place winner (and judges' comments) will be announced in the June *Gray Hawk*; second and third place winners (no comments) in the June issue. Today the board discussed possible ways to increase contest participation.

New Business

The **dues collection** site is ready for online payment (one- or multiple-year memberships) via credit card. (If a member uses a debit card, the bank will need to check the availability of funds before finalizing the transaction.) As approved at the previous board meeting, UIRA membership will be extended to all upon retirement, with the official start of dues payment (and thus acceptance of membership) by September 1. Mike Barron and Lesanne will compose a draft welcome letter for approval at the next board meeting.

Carolyn, Lesanne, Deb, and Ed will work on a first draft of rewritten **UIRA bylaws**, circulating it to Evalyn (who volunteered) and to an ad hoc past presidents' group (including Sue Otto, Emil

Rinderspacher, Sam Cochran, and Mike Barron) for feedback. The goal is to have the revisions ready for discussion at the next board meeting.

Mike Barron reiterated the importance of an **Emeritus Faculty Council (EFC) liaison** to UIRA.

There was a general discussion of the Iowa Legislature's proposal to eliminate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) hiring at Regents' institutions.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next meeting – April 11, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., Hybrid format (In-Person and Zoom)