

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

September 12, 2023

Hybrid Meeting: In-Person and Zoom

Attending: Chris Brus, Deb Cobb, Lois Cox, Ed Dove, David Fitzgerald, Lesanne Fliehler, Mike Hovland, Vicki Siefers, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash.

Not attending: Mike Barron, Diana Lundell, Cathy Wilcox.

Call to Order – Deb Cobb, President

Deb called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

Deb welcomed the board to the new academic year and asked each member to introduce themselves, including where they worked at UI, what activities they enjoy/participate in, and what they hope to accomplish through UIRA this year.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Vicki, seconded by Ed, the May 9, 2023 minutes were approved.

Officer Reports

Treasurer – David Fitzgerald

As of August 31, the UIRA checking account balance is \$16,820.54. The balance in the reserve accounts (Vanguard) is \$12,324.04

President-elect – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

Room 121-P USB has been reserved for all 23-24 UIRA Board meetings, through summer 2024 (except one, as noted on the schedule).

Room 2520-D UCC has been reserved from 10:30 am-12:30 pm on Monday, December 4 for President Wilson's presentation. Evalyn also reported that 2520-D UCC is now under the purview of the Provost's Office. Anyone may go to Outlook to place a temporary hold on the room, but it must be approved by Jayme Johnson (via email) before reservation is confirmed. Of note, this room will be undergoing renovation from mid-December 23 into January 24, so will be unavailable to reserve during that time.

Evalyn is going to visit the UI *Clothing Closet* today to learn more about their efforts to provide lightly used professional clothing to students who may not otherwise be able to afford them. Evalyn is also interested in working with others to raise awareness of the program among UI faculty, to facilitate an increase in donations. <https://www.facebook.com/clothingclosetatiowa/>

Past-President – Ed Dove

See the Program Committee report.

President – Deb Cobb

Deb expressed her belief in the importance of Collective Leadership within UIRA. By helping each other, as others have helped her, we will accomplish much more as a group going forward.

On her visit to the UI Food Pantry, Deb found the students very enthused and motivated. The students would prefer that donations made to the Food Pantry are either monetary or made via their Amazon “Wish List”. Deb will have a jar for free will donations at the Fall Welcome Event on October 6.

<https://imu.uiowa.edu/imu-services/food-pantry-iowa>

Deb expressed her interest in generating more volunteerism within the UIRA community. She feels we are well positioned to make a difference in this area and would like to utilize the knowledge and experience of our members to identify and subsequently promote opportunities for engagement across the UI community. She asked if the Board felt we should consider adding a standing committee to focus of volunteer opportunities. Discussion followed. This item will be added to New Business for the October 10 Board meeting.

Deb reported on her attendance at the Big 10 Retirees Association meeting. Most programs are supported by their universities, and some receive financial support through outside sponsorships. Many BTRA member schools are also affiliated with AROHE (Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education). Would membership in AROHE benefit UIRA? This item will be tabled for now.

Estimates for catering the Fall Welcome event were presented. The decision was made to order cocktail sandwiches from Hy Vee and pick up bulk sides from Costco.

Standing Committee Reports

Program Committee – Ed Dove

Three programs have been completed since the last board meeting (May 9, 2023):

- (In-person) Phebe Timber Spring Hike. Monday, May 15 (9 attendees).
- (Hybrid: In-person and Zoom) The Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social. Thursday, June 15, 2520D University Capitol Center (UCC) (~50 in-person; ~15 zoom).
- (Zoom only) *Update on What’s Happening in Iowa City*, with Iowa City Mayor Bruce Teague. Wednesday, September 6 (30+ attendees)

Upcoming Programs – Fall 2023:

- (Zoom only) *TRAIL of Johnson County: Helping Older Adults Age in Place*, with Bob Untiedt, TRAIL’s executive director. Thursday, September 21, 1:00 pm. Expect the Zoom link on September 19. If you lose the link, contact Ed Dove: edwin-dove@uiowa.edu.
- (In-person) *Welcome to Fall Barn Party*. Friday, October 6, 3:00-6:00 pm, at the home of Steve Scheckel & Pam Terrill (O’Mara Homestead) 4317 320th St NE, Iowa City. Jason Taylor speaking at 4:00 pm about the Burr Oak Land Trust (adjacent to the O’Meara Homestead). Please RSVP to Deb Cobb: deborah-cobb@uiowa.edu by September 30.
- *Making the Right Health Insurance Decisions* (2 sessions)
 - 1) (Hybrid: In-person and Zoom) Monday, October 16, 1:00 pm, 2520D UCC and via Zoom. SHIP counselors Gary Schwartz and Kevin Ward will discuss the non-UI health care options and advantage plans. UIRA coordinator: van.allen-shalash@uiowa.edu
 - 2) (Zoom only) Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 1:00 pm. Sonatina Fernandes, senior UI HR specialist, and Rebecca Olson, senior director of Benefits, will present the UI health care options for 2023-24 enrollment. Anne Thurston, client consultant, will discuss Health Alliance medical plans. UIRA coordinator: edwin-dove@uiowa.edu
- (In-person) Visit to the Cherry Building (next to NewBo) in Cedar Rapids, November 10, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Tour the David Van Allen Photography Studio and/or visit the Iowa Ceramics Studio with the

option of throwing a pot (for a \$25 fee). Map and driving directions have been supplied by Evalyn. Please RSVP to Evalyn Van Allen Shalash: van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu by November 1.

- (Hybrid: In-person and Zoom) A Conversation with UI President Barbara Wilson. Monday, December 4, 11:30 am, 2520-D UCC. UIRA coordinator: edwin-dove@uiowa.edu

Additional Programs for fall and spring are being finalized.

Membership – Vicki Siefers

Vicki reported that she is currently seeking guidance on what the Membership Committee should be doing at this time. Information has not been available, other than a very brief description in the bylaws, on her responsibilities as chair nor how the committee functions.

UIRA welcome letter/flyer developed by committee is being sent out in the UI Retiree packet, to each retiree, as they retire. Kellie is facilitating, printing is covered by the UI.

Mike Hovland asked if there would be benefit in sending hardcopy materials at some point(s) during the year to increase engagement. Discussion followed. This item will be included as New Business in the agenda for the October 10 Board meeting.

Chris and Lesanne offered to become part of the Membership Committee.

The Gray Hawk – Lesanne Fliehler

September 18 is the content deadline for the next issue of the *Gray Hawk*. Please submit all content to Lesanne (lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu) by that date. Email date is September 26-27.

Fall 23 UIRA Program content will reflect the listings in the Program Planning Committee report.

The hiking special interest group is a go. Alice Atkinson said 6-8 people have signed up. Will publish walks as they are organized via the Gray Hawk.

Old Business

Based on an email from Laura McLeran, the policy recommendations related to UIRA, for inclusion in the UI Operations Manual, are now being reviewed by shared governance organizations. Feedback is expected in the next few weeks, with possible approval in late October. Ed stressed the importance of UIRA's inclusion in the Operations Manual and will send a copy of the proposed text to all board members for their information and review.

New Business

New business from this board meeting was based on ideas that were brought up during Officer and Committee reports. Truncated discussion took place. Items of interest will be found in the New Business section of the agenda for the October 10 UIRA Board meeting.

Adjourn

On a motion from Evalyn, seconded by Lesanne, Deb adjourned the meeting at 2:40p.m.
