

# University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA)

## Board of Directors Meeting

October 10, 2023

Hybrid: 121-P USB and Zoom

1:00 pm

### MINUTES

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

**Not attending:** None

### Call to Order – Deb Cobb, President

Deb called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Deb welcomed members and commented on what a huge success the Welcome to Fall Barn Party was. Great attendance, informative program, and all-around good cheer. Deb thanked members of the board for assisting with the event.

### Approval of Minutes

Chris noted that the number of members attending the UIRA Annual Meeting in June 2023 had been tabulated and entered into the final minutes after being sent to the board several days prior.

On a motion from Lesanne, seconded by Ed, the September 12, 2023, minutes were approved.

### Reports from Officers

#### ▪ President – Deb Cobb

Deb reiterated that collective leadership is her main goal for the current academic year and expressed that input from all board members would be needed to address two issues of importance to the efficient and effective management of UIRA.

- 1) Non-compliance of current standing committees as outlined in the UIRA bylaws (revised and approved June 2023). Presented by Deb.
- 2) Conflicting language between our current bylaws, the proposed text for inclusion in the UI Operations Manual, and public information available on the UIRA website. Presented by Ed.

Deb led the board through the descriptions of our standing committees, as found in the UIRA bylaws, and noted issues of compliance. Much of the extensive discussion that followed centered around whether we should move to comply with the parameters set out for each committee, as in number of members required or limited to, or whether we should revise the bylaws to allow for greater flexibility in number of committee members. It was felt that perhaps the best way to approach this issue was to require no less than three members per committee, but leave the maximum number open, based on committee responsibility and availability of interested members. A motion was put forth by Deb and seconded by Lesanne, that an ad hoc committee should be convened to research, deliberate, and develop a less restrictive, potentially more effective standing

committee structure that will help us move toward compliance. The committee will bring the product of their deliberations back to the board for review and discussion. Deb, Chris, and Mike will serve on this committee.

Secondarily, the discussion involved questions about how we identify interest, within the board and general membership, in serving on standing committees. It was generally felt that we need to develop a mechanism for “advertising” committee openings via *The Gray Hawk* and sending targeted emails to those members who have attended UIRA programs. Discussion extended to questions about accessing the UIRA database, kept by Kellie, for identifying members with certain needed skills sets. It was stated that the information was available, and Kellie was able to accommodate certain data requests from the Nominating Committee in the past. No motions were put forth during this part of the discussion.

Ed presented an overview of the conflicting language between our current bylaws, the proposed text for inclusion in the UI Operations Manual, and public information available on the UIRA website, as it pertained to Membership. The language from all three sources was available for review and discussion as part of the board packet. Much of the discussion revolved around who was eligible to be a voting member, based on their relationship to the university and who was eligible for Associate membership (non-voting, non-officeholding). There was much discussion with no resolution. In the end it was proposed and agreed that we would default to the proposed language found in the membership section of the Operations Manual text, for both the bylaws and the website, owing to the fact that it is very difficult to get new text into the Operations Manual, but it is easily revised once approved for inclusion. Chris volunteered to revise the language in the bylaws, as discussed by the board, and send out a draft for review in the next few days.

- **President-Elect – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash**

Only five people have RSVP’d for the tour of the Cherry Building, so another announcement will be sent out. If response does not reach target number of attendees, the program may be cancelled and rescheduled at a later date.

A room for the Larry Weber presentation on April 2, has now been confirmed.

- **Past-President – Ed Dove**

See Program Committee report.

- **Treasurer – David Fitzgerald**

Current Balances: Hills Bank \$16,810.86; Vanguard \$11,995.57.

Money for 23-24 fiscal year membership dues has not been transferred to our account yet.

Money collected for the Food Pantry at the Annual Meeting and Welcome Party is ~ \$300. The money will be given directly to the program as a donation from UIRA.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

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

Photos from the barn party and special interest group hike will be included in the next newsletter along with information about the Emeritus Faculty Lecture and what is going on around campus.

Deadlines for the upcoming issue are as follows: Content due by Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, final draft to Kellie by Oct 20, newsletter emailed by Oct 24.

▪ **Membership – Vicki Siefers**

Charged with developing brochure (Chris will help).

Vicki requested that a contact directory for board members be developed. Lesanne will send information from a former board list to Chris. Deb requested that each board member send their contact information to Chris for inclusion.

▪ **Program Committee – Ed Dove**

11 confirmed programs for the rest of the 23-24 academic year, with several others pending.

These programs have been completed since the last board meeting:

- (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. (38 attendees)
- (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). (48 Attendees)

Upcoming Programs – Fall 2023:

- *Making the Right Health Insurance Decisions* (2 sessions)
  - 1) (Hybrid: In-person and Zoom) Monday, October 16, 1:00 pm, 2520-D UCC and via Zoom. Discussion of non-UI health care options with SHIP counselors Gary Schwartz and Kevin Ward. UIRA Coordinator: Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash: [van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu](mailto:van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu)
  - 2) (Zoom only) Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 1:00 pm. Discussion of UI health care options with Sonatina Fernandes and Rebecca S. Olson, UI Benefits, and Anne Thurston, client consultant. UIRA Coordinator: Ed Dove: [edwin-dove@uiowa.edu](mailto:edwin-dove@uiowa.edu)
- (In-person tour) 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). RSVP to Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash: [van-allen-shalash@uiowa.edu](mailto: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](mailto:edwin-dove@uiowa.edu)

Additional Programs for fall and spring are being finalized.

**Old Business**

No communication on approval status of the UIRA language in the UI Operations Manual.

Special Interest Groups – Will be moved to next board meeting due to time constraints.

**New Business**

Officers/Committee Chairs submit a short report of monthly committee activity for use on Board meeting agenda and minutes. This was requested by Deb, in the board meeting. No discussion followed.

Standing Committees (responsibilities, additions, motions brought to BOD for approval). This was discussed during the President's Report. A committee was convened to revise the committee structure language in the bylaws, circulate a draft to the board members, and discuss at the next board meeting. Deb, Mike, and Chris are on this committee.

Directory of Board Members (phone, address, email). This was addressed during the Membership Committee report. Deb requested that each board member send their contact information to Chris for inclusion.

### **Adjourn**

On a motion from Ed Dove, seconded by Cathy Wilcox, Deb adjourned the meeting at 2:48 pm.