

University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA)

Board of Directors Meeting

December 5, 2023

Hybrid: 121-P USB and Zoom

2:00 pm

MINUTES

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

Not attending: Mike Hovland.

Call to Order – Deb Cobb, President

Deb called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Vicki, seconded by Mike B, the November 14, 2023 minutes were approved.

Reports from Officers

President – Deb Cobb

UIRA Inclusion in UI Policy Manual: Deb received communication from Laura McLeran “I believe this will be a Happy New Year’s announcement!”

Continued working on Ad hoc committee for review and revision of Bylaws committee section.

Has been involved in discussions with the Membership Committee the past two weeks.

Is currently contacting potential committee chair/member appointees. An updated Committee Roster will be circulated when complete. Lesanne suggested Deb get ahold of Deb Hughes, a UIRA member who has been actively participating in events, to judge her interest in serving in some capacity.

She will pursue the task of finding out what are the current benefits afforded to UI Retirees. Changes from those listed on the website will be updated.

President-Elect – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

Evalyn reported that she has been collecting previous internal resource documents that will be reviewed and where useful, become part of a collated policy and procedure document that will then be updated for use in the present. She will reach out to current and past committee chairs for input during this process. Documents are now being converted from pdf to editable versions (word, excel, etc.) to aid in this process. This work refers to the new Ad Hoc UIRA Manual Update Committee

Discussion took place about the kind of space needed for storage of working documents as well as internal policy, protocol, and succession document that would be made available to members of the UIRA Board and Committee chairs. Editing privileges can be restricted to committee members (or whomever is designated by the chair) but would allow read only access to any board member or committee chair for their education. Options to be explored are Google, One Drive (Microsoft), and a shared UIRA drive on the UI main frame. Evalyn will explore options with Lisa Schintler in IT.

Past-President – Ed Dove

Ed reported information he had gotten from the University of Minnesota that the erosion of benefits for retirees was coming from their Board of Regents not from the University itself, most likely as a cost saving measure.

Some on the BOD commented that retirees retained the same level of benefits/access to services as when they were working, but this was not universally thought to be true. Ed hopes to keep or regain some of the benefits that are important to retirees, such as IT privileges, library privileges, etc. Hopefully, these benefits will be more permanent when we are part of the UI Policy Manual.

Ed will send the email/document he received from Minnesota that started this conversation about the erosion of retiree benefits, to the board members.

Treasurer – David Fitzgerald

Our current balance in the UIRA checking account is \$19,267.62.

Reserve funds, in two Vanguard accounts totals \$12,118.26.

Dave reported that the anticipated deposit of dues that was expected to show in the Hills Bank checking account in November, had not been received. He confirmed this with Hills Bank. Ed will contact Nate, a financial support person in the UI Office of the President, to see why this did not occur on the expected timeframe.

Mike B asked if we could receive quarterly statements on the status of the UIRA Endowed Scholarship fund being managed by the Center for Advancement. Several board members did not know about this account or the scholarships. Mike provided a brief history. Currently, UIRA gives two \$2,000 scholarships per year to undergraduate students with financial need. The recipients are chosen by the Financial Aid Department. Lesanne remembers when recipients were announced in the *Gray Hawk* but has not received information about recipients recently. Mike B has volunteered to contact the Center for Advancement and request that quarterly statements be submitted to UIRA.

Standing Committee Reports

Awards – No Report

▪ Photo Contest Committee – Diana, Lesanne

The committee meets on Monday, Dec. 4 following President Wilson's presentation. We will be contacting Hills Bank to request its sponsorship again this year, and once that is set, will contact Tim Schoon and Larry Mendenhall to ask if they'll serve as judges again. Photo submission deadlines will change this year; there is plenty of time to run the contest before winners are announced at the annual meeting in June. In addition, the committee is considering changing the categories or adding to them (considering a University of Iowa category).

The *Gray Hawk* – Lesanne Fliehler

Deadlines for December Issue:

Content deadline: Monday, Dec. 11

Layout to Kellie: Thursday or Friday, Dec. 14 or 15

Distribution: Tuesday or Wednesday, Dec. 19 or 20

Programming

1. *Saving Your Brain, Dementia Prevention*, Patricia Quinlisk, Thursday, Jan. 18, 2 p.m., via Zoom
2. *Explorers Walk*, Coral Ridge Mall, Jan. 24, 10 a.m.
3. *Cycles of the Seasons: Meskwaki Then and Now*, Chérie Haury-Artz, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1 p.m., 2520-D UCC and via Zoom

Additional Content

1. President's Column
2. What's Happening on the UI Campus?
3. Senior College Sets Lineup of Courses for Spring 2024

Membership – Vicki Siefers

Vicki first noted that the committee was still trying to figure out how to best work with the ASC and understand the partnership between UIRA and the UI, in terms of who and how the duties of the Membership Committee are being initiated and monitored.

102 members who have still not renewed. Kellie had sent two emails to the 299 members who needed to renew this year and the remaining 102 were given a deadline of December 12 to renew before being dropped from membership. Vicki proposed sending one more email that she had drafted and was shared in her BOD report. Significant discussion followed. Outcome: Vicki will send the email to the 102 who have not renewed, on December 12. If they have not responded by December 31, they will be deleted from membership.

She will also ask Kellie for a spreadsheet of the 102 non-renewals, including all information we currently have available on each. This list will then be vetted to the board for review of database structure, inclusion of necessary information (department at time of retirement and year of retirement) and any personal knowledge board members may have on these UIRA members we are trying to reach.

Nine (9) people who have not renewed and have no email addresses listed on the membership database have been contacted by Vicki via postcard. They were given information on how to renew online as well as given a phone number to call if they needed help renewing by mail using a check. Vicki has not heard from any of them at this time. If they do not respond by December 31, they will be taken off the membership rolls.

Since the last board meeting, we also discovered that the provisional membership for newly retired UI faculty and staff, as accepted in the bylaws in June 2023, was not working as planned. The UIRA welcome letter was going out to retiring UI employees, but the membership benefits from the time of retirement until the next membership renewal cycle, was not. There was a breakdown in the proposed process that led to no new retirees being added to the UIRA membership database at time of retirement, resulting in no communication from us at all during their provisional membership, including the *Gray Hawk* newsletter. This is very unfortunate. Discussion led to a motion by Mike Barron, seconded by Lois Cox, that retirees from June 2023 forward would be given free provisional UIRA membership through August 31, 2024, with full membership benefits. Motion was approved unanimously.

Lastly, there was discussion about needed clarification of who can communicate with Kellie directly and who she needs to be responsive to when a request is made on her time. It is to everyone's benefit that

a protocol be worked out so both UIRA board members, committee chairs, and Kellie know the necessary lines of communication. Deb will discuss with Kellie and others who are involved, and a protocol will be drafted for review by the board.

Program Planning Committee – Ed Dove

Ed reported that the PPC will offer two programs monthly during the Spring 2024 semester.

These programs have been completed since the last board meeting:

- November 30, *Dressing for Success in the Winter Wilderness: Practical Tips for Enjoying Iowa's Polar Season*, Chad Huss. (N=21: in-person)
- December 4, *A Conversation with UI President Barbara Wilson*. (N=49: 17 in-person; 32 Zoom)

Upcoming Programs – December 2023 & Early 2024:

- December 18, 11:00 am (Hybrid: In-person and Zoom), L116 LC (Lindquist Center). *Meet Beth Goetz, new UI Interim Athletic Director*. UIRA Coordinator: ellen-herman@uiowa.edu.
- January 18, 2:00 pm (Zoom only). *Saving Your Brain, Dementia Prevention*, Patricia Quinlisk, UIRA Coordinator: lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu.
- January 24, 10:00 am, Coral Ridge Mall. *Explorers Walk* (Special Interest Group), UIRA Contact: lesanne-fliehler@uiowa.edu
- February 6, 1:00 pm (Hybrid: In-person and Zoom), 2520-D UCC. *Cycles of the Seasons: Meskwaki Then and Now*, Chérie Haury-Artz. UIRA Coordinator: nancy-langguth@uiowa.edu

More programs are being finalized for Spring 2024 and will be updated monthly in the PPC Report and the *Gray Hawk*.

- **SIG: Explorers Report – Alice, Lesanne**

Recent activities include:

- a walk on Nov. 15 at Waterworks Park on Dubuque Street, 11 attendees.
- a presentation by Chuck Huss on “Dressing for Success in the Winter Wilderness: Practical Tips for Enjoying Iowa’s Polar Season,” 21 attendees

In addition, we received a message from Marci Trana, who was a naturalist with Johnson County Conservation. She is now an outdoor educator with Tamarack Discovery School. As she wrote, “UIRA was one of my favorite groups to work with while there.” Tamarack is wanting to build community and wondered if UIRA members would want to spend time with 13 preschoolers. We have let her know when our walks are and that the children are welcome to join us.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Bylaws Review and Revision Committee (Deb, Mike, Chris)

The committee met once since the last BOD meeting and continued to work on the committee section of the bylaws. We discussed a somewhat revised protocol and timeline for committee chair appointments but need more time and information before solidifying a plan to bring to the BOD.

UIRA Manual Update Subcommittee (Evalyn, Lois)

See update in President-Elect report.

Website Review and Update Committee (Ed, Lin, Lesanne)

The committee has not met since formation.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Adjourn

On a motion from Lesanne, seconded by Cathy, Deb adjourned the meeting at 3:06 pm.