

University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA)

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

October 15, 2024

Hybrid: 121-P USB and Zoom

12:00 pm

Attending: Chris Brus, Deb Cobb, Lois Cox,, Mike Hovland, Cindy Seyfer, Rachel Stewart, Todd Stewart, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, Cathy Wilcox, Bernard Sorofman of the EFC.

Not attending: Michael Barron, Jean Florman, Diana Lundell

Call to Order – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, President

Evalyn called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Todd, seconded by Chris, the September 17, 2024 minutes were approved.

Reports from Officers

President – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

Deb Cobb will be representing UIRA at Emeritus Faculty Council (EFC) Meetings

Invitation extended to Professor Emeritus Bernard Sorofman to serve as ex-officio member from EFC. He will attend our board meetings. Need to add him to our website. Cathy asked if anyone had notified him of the meeting today and no one had. Lois sent an email to him and he arrived before 1:00. In the future Cathy will send him the packet of meeting materials.

Csomy Center contacted Evalyn about forwarding information to UIRA members about a program on aging and scam protection that they are hosting in October. That information was sent to UIRA members. In spring 2024 UIRA sponsored a program on scams and an AARP volunteer presented.

Meeting was scheduled with our HR colleagues (Cheryl Reardon, Joni Troester and Kellie Digmann) for October 15 to update UIRA agreement, however, that meeting was rescheduled for another date because of a recent issue that has arisen. We don't seem to be getting names of newly retired staff. See details in section for membership committee. Also want to discuss what benefits are available to retired staff. Evalyn requested information from other Big Ten Retirees Associations and received replies from Maryland, Minnesota, Northwestern and Ohio state. The four schools offer no or some different benefits. UIRA needs to know what Iowa

offers to retirees and if there is a difference in what retired staff receive vs retired faculty. If there is a difference UIRA will advocate for having same benefits.

Evalyn will report next month on her attendance at the Mentoring Workshop that UI VP for Student Services hosted on October 8. UIRA may have ideas on how UIRA members can serve as mentors to currently enrolled UI students. Mentoring students could be as simple as having coffee with them a few times a semester.

Evalyn has been invited to serve on the UI Center for Advancement selection committee for the “Eight over 80” awards. The nominations deadline is November 15 and selection will be made the week of December 2—meeting yet to be scheduled.

President-Elect – Lois Cox-no report for this month. Lois suggested that we send the Gray Hawk to the EFC. Bernard said to send the Gray Hawk to him and he will distribute to the EFC.

Lois asked if the program presentation on SHIP would be beneficial to staff anticipating retirement. We need to find out if HR provides any advance programs/notifications about availability of SHIP counselors.

Past-President – Deb Cobb-see program planning committee report

Treasurer – Todd Stewart-

Todd distributed the Cash Flow report from 7/1/2024 through 9/30/2024 and Balance Sheet report as of 9/30/2024.

The Vanguard account has been closed. Vanguard sent the balance plus interest to Hills Bank for deposit and a Certificate of Deposit (CD) will eventually be opened with part of the total, \$12,700.

Standing Committee Reports

Awards Committee-no report

Budget Committee-Todd

Todd indicated that he needs to gain more experience as treasurer before he can determine the role of the budget committee. He anticipates that after 6 months as treasurer the committee can start meeting.

Evalyn brought up an item for the committee: investigating if UIRA can receive funds from UI sources or non-UI sources. Chris asked if UIRA can benefit from sponsorships from outside companies/businesses. Bernard indicated that the EFC does receive funding from the UI President’s Office to pay for the luncheon at their annual meeting.

The Gray Hawk-Diana

Deadlines – November issue: Call for content: Tuesday, Oct. 2; Content deadline: Friday, Oct. 18; Layout with Lesanne: Oct. 19-22; Board Review: Oct. 23; Layout to Kellie: Monday Oct. 28; Distribution: Oct. 29/30

Photo Contest-Call for entries will be published in the February Gray Hawk. Entry deadlines will be March 15. Prior to this Diana will secure commitments from Hills Bank as sponsor and from three judges

Manual Update and Orientation Committee-Evalyn

Evalyn will send an electronic version of the manual to Bernard

Membership Committee-Chris

All committee members were given a set of seven files to review that supported possible initiatives for this year. The materials were related to an initial set of three proposed topics/questions of interest. A fourth was added after discussion at a meeting of available members on September 25, 2024. While this list is far from exhaustive, it got members thinking about what would be important to address going forward.

The four topics of interest/questions are:

- 1) How should we follow introductory members, and what data do we need to do that?
- 2) We will finally get a full copy of the updated Membership Dataset in late October. How can we best use that information to build relationships with and provide services to our members?
- 3) Answering questions regarding what benefits ARE afforded to UI Retirees by the University and how we can communicate specifics of what benefits are available to staff and faculty (not the same!).
- 4) How can we use employment/retirement information, received from HR, to build a more robust engagement and succession plan for UIRA Board and committees.

We will discuss these items of interest in our October meeting and set a preliminary agenda for what we want to accomplish going forward. We will vet initiatives to the Board as they are developed, and welcome ideas you may have for the committee to discuss and research.

As of 10.08.24, the committee has not received a final report on the renewal cycle that ended on October 1.

Cathy requested clarification from Chris regarding the number of staff in the dataset from Kellie. Per Kellie, October 10 dataset was 515. The total number should be higher because the number from the June Annual report was 461. Chris and the Board members from 2023-24 thought that the dataset problem had been cleaned up after the meeting with HR on May 15, 2024. Since the numbers are different, it doesn't seem that the issue with the dataset has

been fixed. Data should include department that staff retired from as well as their position title. It is important to have the correct dataset because the nominating committee uses the information to find new board members. The problem with the dataset will be one of the topics for the next UIRA and HR meeting.

Nominating Committee-Mike

The nominating committee has no recent activities to report. The committee membership is still being finalized for this year, and currently includes Michael Hovland, Michael Barron, Lois Cox, and Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash. Mike anticipates adding one additional person.

Program Planning Committee-Deb

Deb mentioned the possibility of having a Community Building Event to increase more in person participation. The event would include a box lunch and time for socializing. The Program Planning Committee will consider this idea.

Completed programs since the last board meeting:

Barn Party held on Sept 18th- 65 attended, Ron Clark storytelling, Event well-received
Annual SHIP Counseling held on October 8th-17 in-person attendees, 53 by Zoom, Eric Schnedler provided IT assistance

Upcoming Programs – Fall 2024:

UI Benefits annual meeting- Anne Thurston- Health Alliance, Rebecca Olson & Sonatina Fernandes UI HR- Deb, Thu 10/17, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, 2520-D UCC

Trends in Children’s Literature with Molly Roberts, Prairie Lights and Angela Pilkington, ICPL Children’s Dept.- Lois, Tue 11/12, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, NOTE new room: 1117 UCC (Box lunch to be provided)- promote socializing-

Stanley Art Museum, Lauren Lessing & Cory Gundlach: “DEACCESSION”- Lois, Thu 11/21, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, 2520-D UCC

President Wilson, “State of the University”, - Evalyn, Tue 12/10, 12:30-2:00 pm, 2520-D UCC , Box lunch provided

Spring Semester programs

UI Campus Building Update and Tour (Cambus), Rod Lehnertz, Tuesday, April 8, late morning, In-person- Ellie

Tour of Campus Trees, Andy Dahl, UI Arborist, April 17 or May date to be determined, 2520-D UCC -Nancy

UI Athletics: Compliance, NIL (name, image and likeness) and other topics, Lyla Clerry (Associate AD for Compliance), May date to be determined-2520-D UCC-Elle

Other ideas:

Retirement Finances, Clark Buel (TIAA-CREF)- Lois

Theater in the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids corridor, Adam Knight of Riverside Theater

Explorers Report (Alice Atkinson & Lesanne Flieher)

Recent walk since last report:

September Walks

- Wednesday, September 11, 10:00 a.m., Corriell Nature Preserve
- Wednesday, September 25, 10:00 a.m., Mormon Handcart Trail

October Walks

We have three walks coming up in October! What were we thinking? Maybe a desire to get walking outside before you-know-what comes?

- Wednesday, October 9, 10:00 a.m., Macbride Nature Recreation Area
- Friday, October 18, 10:00 a.m., Waterworks Park (on Dubuque St.)
- Wednesday, October 30, 10:00 a.m., Kent Park (specific location to be determined)

Website Update Committee-Rachel

No report for this month. Rachel and Evalyn will eventually recruit members for the committee.

Rachel requested a meeting with Kellie to determine who should make the changes to the UIRA website and who handles the calendar. Evalyn will schedule the meeting. Maybe include Lesanne because she had done work on the website in the past.

Rachel provided ideas to enhance the UIRA website : uploading videos, dedicated page to have information on what UIRA has done, post photos of events.

Old Business Auditing classes-Will defer to next meeting - Mike Barron to provide information at next meeting

Donor list for UICA scholarship-Evalyn has not seen a donor report and will check with Kellie. She will inform Cathy and if needed, Cathy will send a second request that they FY24 donor report be sent to Kellie. FY25 report should automatically be sent to Kellie this month

New Business

Solicit ideas for broadening the search for Board members to increase diversity: -are merit retirees included in UIRA?

UIRA's 30th anniversary in 2025-Evalyn

Evalyn would like to have events in 2025 to recognize UIRA's 30th anniversary and requested idea. Here are some of the ideas:

Panel discussion with some UIRA members-topics to be determined

Chris-submit a proposal for funding to the UI President.

Mike- are we able to get names and addresses of past retirees. Do a direct mailing using postcards to advertise whatever events will be happening. Use direct mailing in addition to email notification.

Lois – tie event(s) to the Annual Meeting in June. Might want to have a program in 2025 about aging

Bernard- showcase things that UIRA has done that have been beneficial to members

Cindy- have an event during next fall's Homecoming week

Rachel-create a timeline on the UIRA website to show what happened in the 30 years. Begin promoting the anniversary starting in January 2025 and let members know that there will be special events throughout the year.

Announcements-none.

Adjourn: On a motion from Deb, seconded by Todd, Evalyn adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm