

University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date January 21, 2025

Hybrid: 121-P USB and Zoom

1:00 pm

## **MINUTES**

Attending: Michael Barron, Chris Brus, Deb Cobb, Lois Cox, Jean Florman, Mike Hovland, Diana Lundell, Cindy Seyfer, Rachel Stewart, Todd Stewart, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, Cathy Wilcox, Minnetta Gardinier.

Call to Order – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, President

Evalyn called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Mike B seconded by Diana, the December 17, 2024 minutes were approved.

Evalyn introduced Minnetta Gardinier, the new EFC liaison, who is replacing Bernard Sorofman.

Reports from Officers

President – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

Meeting set with Kellie, Lesanne, Cindy and Mike H. Scheduled for January 23 to discuss these items in advance of larger session with Cheryl Reardon and Joni Troester, scheduled for February 17:

1. Unique ID for all members (way to delineate UI employee from spouse member)
2. Specific data on staff type (Merit/PS/SEIU)
3. Classification title and classification level at time of retirement
4. Integration of introductory ( free ) retiree membership) into the overall membership data and a way to track (introductory ) membership/end date)

Cindy indicated that if the above can be obtained/done, it would help achieve the goals of the membership committee and help Kellie too. Cindy noted that on the meeting invite other HR staff was included

Contact made with Emil Rinderspacher concerning financial support for Emeritus Faculty Council (to be reported under Old Business)

Decided “active solicitation” was needed to get UIRA members to submit “reflections” for the GrayHawk. Have two in hand, two pledged for future issue.

Evalyn will be off to New York as soon as her daughter goes into labor (now estimated early-February). She will try to get all UIRA work done in advance. Depending on circumstance, she may need to zoom into the next meeting. Lois will fill in if Evalyn is unable to conduct the meeting. The countdown is on.

President-Elect – Lois Cox-nothing to report.

Past-President – Deb Cobb-nothing to report.

Treasurer – Todd Stewart-see budget spreadsheets for December attached with board packet. Not much activity has happened.

EFC Liaison (Ex-Officio)-Minnetta Gardinier-EFC updating their by-laws.EFC Lecture on February 20,2025 at 4:00PM-details on UIRA website.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Awards Committee- Chair Michael Barron, Sue Otto, Nancy Langguth

No nominees have been submitted for the two awards-Community Service or Volunteer Service.March 5 is the deadline. Mike's recollection is that UIRA has always received nominations. He encouraged BOD members to think of UIRA retirees who might be good candidates and to nominate them. Evalyn indicated that Nancy Langguth plans to nominate someone. If there are no/too few nominations, it's been suggested to review prior year's nominees who were not selected.

Budget Committee-Chair Todd Stewart-hasn't proposed a committee meeting yet. Evalyn and Todd are on the committee and will need to find another member for the committee. Need to determine what committee will be doing. One possibility is to determine sources of funding for the anniversary events.

Gray Hawk Report-Diana Lundell/Lesanne Fliehler

The Gray Hawk Deadlines – February issue will be out in January. Schedule was call for content: Monday, Jan. 2; Content deadline: Friday, Jan. 17; Layout with Lesanne: Jan. 17-21; Board Review: Jan. 22-24; Layout to Kellie: Jan. 27; Distribution: Jan. 30. February issue will include information about nominating a UIRA member for the two awards.

Photo Contest-Call for entries is being published in the February Gray Hawk. Entry deadline is March 15. All three judges secured and same as last year. Hills Bank & Trust has again agreed to sponsor the contest for \$600. Contest expenses are: \$300 for judge compensation and \$300 for prizes UIRA has paid the judges who are professional photographers and all have had some tie to the UI.

Manual Update and Orientation Committee-Chair Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash-nothing to report

Membership Committee-Chair Chris Brus, Lesanne Fliehler, Diana Lundell, Cindy Seyfer, Kevin Ward

All committee members were present at the January 6, 2025 meeting of the UIRA Membership Committee. Committee welcomed Kevin Ward . With his extensive experience working with the university, he will be very helpful to have him on the committee.

The holidays were a busy time so the committee had not followed up on the Action Items from the December meeting.

Email to Introductory Member Backlog List- Diana and Lesanne will draft an email to the 422 introductory members on the backlog spreadsheet. It will outline ways to get involved with UIRA and include specific information on our committees. Retirees who respond to that email will receive Individual follow-up to ascertain their level of interest. Getting more of the membership involved in committee work is critical for succession planning, especially for committee chair positions. Chris noted that many of the 422 are retirees from UIHC and if they did not keep their UI email, their email will bounce back.

Benefits in Retirement-Committee discussed efforts to identify specific benefits and discounts that are available to UI retirees through the Employee Discount Program. The website currently has listings that are confusing and often do not reference retirees at all. Cindy had followed-up with Sonatina Fernandes regarding the information on the Employee Discount Program website. Sonatina replied that retirees are told by Benefits that they may keep their IDs if they are 55 and older. If associated with HealthCare, they must surrender their ID but can obtain a new retiree ID at the badging center on the 1st floor in the hospital. Per Sonatina, retiree benefits include the use of the library and any UI-specific discount IF a vendor is willing to extend the discount based on their association with the University. In this case, having an ID helps. It is entirely up to the vendor to determine if a retiree would qualify for the discount or not. There is a statement on the Employee Discounts page that asks employees to let HR know if they had information about the validity of any of the discounts listed on that page. That is not very helpful to our mission of elucidating what benefits/discounts are available to UI retirees. Committee talked about the need to identify what constitutes a “current” or “valid” UI ID card and whether the discounts vary by retired faculty or staff employment. Information was found that outlines how retirees can re-activate their UI ID or receive a UI retiree ID. None of the committee members knew that there was such an ID.

Diana will go to the UI Service Center - University ID Card Programs office that manages ID’s to ask them directly if there is a UI retiree ID and if so, what a retiree needs to do so one can be issued to them.

Development of UIRA Dataset- Chris received an email update from Evalyn on her meeting with Joni Troester on December 5, 2024, to discuss remaining issues with the development of the UIRA membership dataset. Another meeting with all parties present will be held early this year. Cindy and Lesanne will attend from the UIRA Membership Committee.

The next meeting of the Membership Committee will be February 3, 2025. Committee welcomes, and will discuss, any suggestions sent to the committee prior to our scheduled monthly meeting.

Nominating Committee-Chair Mike Hovland, Michael Barron, Lois Cox, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash-Mike asked for the newest database of new members. It would be helpful to have names of retirees who

attended UIRA programs from last year. Chris will provide information to Mike. Mike indicated that if the committee had additional names it would help broaden the pool of members to consider for the BOD or for committees rather than relying on committee members reaching out to people that they personally know.

Minnetta asked how many members are in the UIRA. There are approximately 500 paid members. At a prior meeting Bernard told the BOD that EFC members do not pay dues. Minnetta indicated that there are over 1000 EFC members and when the Provost Office notifies her of a new member, she adds the member to an EFC list serve. UIRA does not have a list serve. UIRA emails are sent by Kellie via Dispatch.

Program Planning Committee-Deb Cobb, Lois Cox, Diana Lundell, Cathy Wilcox, Nancy Langguth, Elle Herman, Ronda Seuppel, Jean Florman

Past Programs: President Wilson, "State of the University": (Hybrid), Tue 12/10, 12:30-2:00 pm, 2520-D UCC, Box Lunch Firehouse Subs, Attendance: 21 Zoom, 22 In-person, positive feedback on program and food, President Wilson's slides posted on UIRA website

#### Upcoming Programs:

Money management for Seniors: Clark Buelt, TIAA advisor (Hybrid), Lois Cox-host, co-host-Nancy (Deb's computer) Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 1:00-2:00 pm, 2520-D UCC Evalyn has reserved 2520-D, Lunch from Oasis-Deb. Deb indicated that so far, she has received 15 reservations for lunch.

Theater in the Corridor: Adam Knight: (In-Person) Lois Cox-host, co-host- Deb Cobb March 11, 2025. Could be at the Riverside Theatre. Need to decide if UIRA will provide snacks. Lois will not be there and Lesanne will introduce Adam. Event will be at the theatre. Coffee will be provided by the theatre and UIRA will provide snack or cookies.

UIRA Spring Campus Building Bus tour: (In-Person): Rod Lehnertz -Elle Herman host, co-host- Evalyn? Tuesday, April 8, 2025, time 10-2? Meeting location for CAMBUS pickup to be determined. Possibly at Finkbine Golf course parking lot. Possibly lunch at own expense at Bump's Restaurant at the golf course. Invite Rod to lunch.

Athletic Compliance Presentation: Andy Banse (Associate Director of Compliance): Host-Elle; Thursday, April 17, 1-2:30, UCC-IP-1117.

Andy Dahl for tour of campus trees: In person, weather permitting, Host-Nancy Langguth, May 13, 2025, 1:00-2:30 pm, meet in front of Macbride Hall

Other Ideas: Global Entry through Homeland Security-Jean Florman and Lois Cox; Carolyn Chalmers, Author "They Don't Want Her Here, a book about Jean Jew. Carolyn Chalmers is the lawyer who represented Jean and wrote the book 3 years ago. Carolyn is presenting at the College of Law. Lois confirmed that Carolyn is speaking at the College of Law on Thursday, April 10. The event is open to all College of Law community. The event already has some sponsors and BOD agreed that UIRA should be one of the sponsors. UIRA members could attend the event in person but there could be issues on

where to park. The event will also be on Zoom. Prairie Lights bookstore could be a sponsor and would have books available for purchase at the event. Karen Baker-College of Dentistry; UIRA trips or events beyond Johnson Co such as State Capitol, Figge Museum, Amana Colonies, Dinner/Performances.

Ideas from Alice Atkinson:1) Role of wrestling (especially women's wrestling) at the UI; Tour of the new wrestling center and a talk with the new women's coach; 2) Role of AI in medicine-where is it helpful and how can AI be damaging; 3) The value of the International programs at the university-what do international visitors and experiences by UI students in other countries add to our lives and the value of a degree from the UI. Global Ties brings international visitors to IC, the Mandela Fellows from Africa; CFRC has a series of great programs about democracy and global warming with an international viewpoint; 4) School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability, that is being formed -approved by the Regents.

Next UIRA PPC meeting is February 4, 2025, 1-2 pm in USB 121

Special Interest Group (SIG) Explorer's Report-Alice Atkinson-nothing to report

Website Update Committee-Chair Rachel Stewart, Lesanne Fliehler, Chris Brus, Carol McGhan, Wendy Brown. The committee will meet in February. Rachel informed the BOD that Wendy Brown has withdrawn from the committee.

Old Business (Update UIRA History Document ) Evalyn will reach out to Wendy Brown to inquire if she is interested in helping gather information about the history of UIRA for the 30th anniversary. This would involve going through old UIRA materials.

T-shirts and name tags (Chris and Mike H)-No decisions have been made. Two items have been brought up: requirements for using UI name on shirts and does UIRA want a new logo. Diana volunteered to talk to UI Strategic Communications about the branding on shirts. If UIRA wants a new logo, BOD needs to decide on this. Rachel knows someone who could be hired to create a new logo.

UIRA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025 (Comments from Emil Rinderspacher )Emil had been a past UIRA president and is currently actively involved with Senior College. Evalyn asked him if he could come to the BOD meeting, but he could not. He sent a lengthy email to Evalyn about how UICA became involved in Senior College. Evalyn asked Emil if Senior College could provide some funding for the UIRA 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At first it seemed that Senior College might help. But upon clarification, that was not the case. Emil suggested that since UIRA is now part of UI and under UI HR, UIRA should ask HR leaders about funding .Evalyn will inquire about this when she has the bi-annual meeting with UIHR leadership on February 17.

New Business –UIRA/UIHR Leadership Bi-Annual meeting with Joni Troester and Cheryl Reardon is scheduled for February 17. Items to be discussed include funding for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and may include dataset issues that are listed under President's report, if they are not resolved at the January 23 meeting.

Announcements: Cathy will not be at the February meeting. Chris will be preparing the packet for the February meeting and will take minutes at the February meeting.

Adjourn: On a motion from Diana, seconded by Rachel, Evalyn adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.