

UIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Minutes

Attending: Mike Barron, Chris Brus, Lois Cox, Jean Florman, Mike Hovland, Cindy Seyfer, Rachel Stewart, Todd Stewart, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash.

Not attending: Deb Cobb, Diana Lundell, Cathy Wilcox

Call to Order – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, President

Evalyn called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Mike B., seconded by Cindy, the January 21, 2025, minutes were approved.

Reports from Officers

President - Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

- On January 30, Lois and Evalyn attended a Zoom mid-year meeting with representatives of the **Big Ten Retiree Association**. A unanimous vote welcomed USC, UCLA, and the University of Washington (Seattle) to our ranks. Their representatives shared fresh ideas, including a special interest group called “Travelogue.” This group brings retirees together to share travel experiences, showcase slides, and discuss topics like travel insurance and navigating bus and train travel in Europe. It has become a highly popular discussion group—should we consider offering something similar here?

A question arose whether we have liability insurance if we offer any activities including transportation. Evalyn was reassured by UI Risk Management.

Evalyn will look into a national program called “Age-Friendly Campus” to see if UI qualifies.
Core Principles: <https://www.afugn.org/principles>

- A meeting with Joni Troester and Cheryl Reardon has been scheduled to review our MOU on February 17 and will report back to the UIRA Board at its regular meeting the next day. UIRA participants include me, Lois, Cindy (for Membership Committee), and Mike Hovland (for Nominating Committee).

President-Elect – Lois Cox

No Report

Past President – Deb Cobb

Not present – No Report

Treasurer – Todd Stewart

See budget spreadsheets for January attached to the board packet.

Awaiting \$570 to be deposited into Hills Bank.

Cindy wondered if we could keep pace with our incoming monies each year if we offer lunches with programs. Discussion occurred and other potential expenses were mentioned like direct mail pieces sent to the membership, and the cost of travel to meetings by the Executive Officers. It was felt that an increase in dues might need to be considered.

Todd has requested that more information be available on the UIRA Membership Dataset to show member's year of expiration, whether they renew or not, and if they renew, how much was paid. It will help track incoming monies. The Membership Committee will include Todd's requested additions to the dataset in their next meeting with UHR IT.

Todd also suggested that anyone who is buying supplies or has other expenditures related to UIRA, use one of the UIRA credit cards instead of their own credit cards. We get a tax break if using UIRA cards because we are a non-profit organization.

EFC Liaison (Ex-Officio) – Lois Cox

No Report

Standing Committee Reports

Awards Committee - Mike Barron (Chair), Sue Otto, Nancy Langguth

Mike Barron reported that an individual has been selected to receive the award for *Service to the University*.

They are still soliciting nomination for the award in *Service to the Community*. They have identified two possible awardees, and a few more names surfaced during the meeting. Nominations will be written and submitted to the committee for review.

Photo Contest - Diana Lundell

Contest opening announced in February Gray Hawk. Deadline March 15. Judging follows in the next two weeks. Winners announced soon after.

Budget Committee – Todd Stewart (Chair)

No Report

The Gray Hawk - Diana Lundell, Editor

Per Diana's report, Lesanne Fliehler is graciously accepting and editing content as well as laying out the March issue.

Deadline is Feb. 14 with group editing to follow and Kellie will send issue via email about Feb. 28.

Evalyn noted that Lesanne will no longer be laying out the Gray Hawk after this year and we will need to find someone to do that for next year. We discussed hiring a student at a reasonable cost or initiating an internship for a student with the desired skills.

Mike Barron commented that an internship would be seen as a way for UIRA to support the UI mission of supporting students. This also has implication for the discussion re the UIRA budget going forward.

Manual Update and Orientation Committee – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash (Chair), Lois Cox
No Report

Membership Committee - Chris Brus, Lesanne Fliehler, Diana Lundell, Cindy Seyfer, Kevin Ward
All committee members except Diana were present at the February 3rd committee meeting.

- **UIRA Membership Dataset Updates:** On Thursday, January 23rd, UIRA members Evalyn, Lesanne, Mike H, and Cindy met with Joni Troester, Kellie Digmann, Mike Kaplan, and Jessica Wade. That morning Kellie provided an updated membership dataset.

The issue regarding the need for a unique ID for all members and the ability to delineate the UI retiree member from the spouse member was resolved through Kellie's use of UI Employee ID for the UI retiree member and replacing the leading "1" with a "2" for the spouse member associated with a UI retiree member. There remained an issue with correct usage of last names when there are paid memberships pairing spouses/partners. We agreed that Kellie and UIRA have differing uses for the information in the membership dataset and the best way to resolve these differences was to create a new tab for UIRA membership pulling in specific information from Kellie's tab and ensuring that the correct legal name is listed for each paying UIRA member.

Cindy provided the list of data elements needed for the UIRA membership tab after working with Chris. In addition to the needs of the membership committee, Mike H explained that this information is needed for the nominations process, communications, engagement, and registration. He proposed some next steps. Joni Troester indicated that they are working on a solution and hope to have information to share in the next few weeks. Once this information is available, a meeting will be scheduled.

- **Email to Backlog Members:** An email was sent on Wednesday, Jan 29th to 470 introductory members from the backlog. These introductory members did not receive communications in the first year as planned so we wanted to be sure to reach out to them and encourage them to participate in UIRA programming and to consider joining a UIRA committee. They were encouraged to consider utilizing their experience or skills (such as planning programs and events, writing or editing, spreadsheets, finances, computers, and other talents) to benefit UIRA committees.

Hopefully this email will generate some interest and new membership on committees. The email also served as a reminder of the August 2025 expiration of their introductory membership. Of the 470 emails only three were undeliverable. The committee was very pleased by this low number.

The undeliverable emails were UIHC employees at the downtown location. Names were read and if any board member knows those individuals, please let us know and we can work to get these emails updated.

- **UI ID Card for Retirees:** Diana visited the UI Service Center on second floor UCC and spoke with Brittany. Any retiree can get a UI ID card. The sooner this is done after retirement, the easier this is to do. If the retiree has been retired for years, a new ID takes longer because staff must verify UI employment/retirement through older records. UI staff and faculty can keep the UI IDs that they have been using.

The exception to this is UIHC retirees, who must relinquish their ID cards/badges for security reasons. UIHC retirees are encouraged to get a new UI ID card. Brittany indicated that the newly issued retiree ID card allows access to the UI Rec Center and library, and it even provides charging privileges. Brittany advises people to maintain their regular ID card or get a retiree card at the service center for use as a “government issue ID” because hotels may offer discounts.

Diana researched information on the ID card website and found the following: “University of Iowa students, faculty, and staff are eligible to receive an Iowa One Card.” Since retirees are not mentioned on the website, Diana suggests that UIRA advocate for the inclusion of “retirees” on its website. Another idea is to include an article in an upcoming *Gray Hawk* about obtaining a retiree ID card through the UI Service Center.

- **Upcoming Projects:** Kevin will be reviewing UIRA website section under Opportunities, Benefits, and Resources and “Perks and Discounts.” He will determine if there is a better way to present the information and to link directly to UI websites for services and discounts.
- **Program Attendees:** Cindy will work with Chris to obtain the attendance logs for programs for last year and this year so that this can be added to the membership dataset, once this dataset is finalized.

Report submitted by Cindy Seyfer

Nominating Committee - Mike Hovland (Chair), Mike Barron, Lois Cox, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, Jean Florman

The five members of the nominating committee have met in two Zoom meetings to develop short lists for president elect and at large board members, and we have begun making calls to prospects.

Several openings have been filled, awaiting election by the membership. Names will not be shared until later in the process.

Report submitted by Mike Hovland, Chair

Program Planning Committee - Deb Cobb, Lois Cox, Diana Lundell, Cathy Wilcox, Nancy Langguth, Ellie Herman, Renee Sueppel, Jean Florman

The Program Committee met on Tuesday Feb. 4, from 1:00 until 2:15 pm in 121-p USB. Present were L.Cox, E. Herman, N. Langguth, R. Stewart, and E. Van Allen-Shalash.

The majority of the time was spent on finalizing details for upcoming programs. The programs for the remainder of the spring are as follows:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 11** -- MONEY MANAGEMENT FOR SENIORS with Clark Buelt of TIAA. It will be held in Room 2520D, UCC from 1:00 until 2:00 pm. A light lunch from Oasis Felafel will be served before the program, beginning at 12:15 pm. Host: Lois Cox, Co-host: Nancy Langguth.
- **Tuesday, March 11** -- THEATER IN THE CORRIDOR with Adam Knight, Producing Artistic Director of Riverside Theatre, and a panel of theater professionals from the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids/Coralville area. It will be held at Riverside Theatre, 119 E. College St., IC, from 1:00 until 2:00 pm. Backstage tours of Riverside Theatre's new facility will be offered after the presentation. Host: Lois Cox, Co-host: Lesanne Fliehler.
- **Tuesday, April 8** -- SPRING BUILDING UPDATE AND BUS TOUR with Rod Lehnertz, Senior Vice President of Finance and Operations, Univ. of Iowa. In deference to VP Lehnertz's schedule, the committee decided to hold the bus tour in the morning, beginning at 10:30 am. Attendees are asked to arrive at the Finkbine Golf Course parking lot between 10:00 and 10:15 am. The tour will last approximately 1 hour. After the tour, those wishing to do so will have a self-financed lunch at Bumps. Due to the size of the bus, RSVPs are limited to 30 and are due to Ellie Herman by **April 1**. Host: Ellie Herman, Co-host: Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash.
- **Thursday, April 10** -- FIGHTING RACIAL AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT with Attorney Carolyn Chalmers, Prof. Emerita Jean Jew, and Prof. Adrien Wing. Prof. Wing will hold a conversation with Ms. Chalmers and Prof. Jew about Ms. Chalmers's 2022 book, *They Don't Want her There* (Univ. of Iowa Press). It will be held from 12:45 until 1:45 pm in Room 235, Boyd Law Building. A Zoom link will be provided by the college closer to the date. The event is co-sponsored by the College of Law, The Univ. of Iowa Center for Human Rights, The Organization of Women Law Students and Staff, and the Women of Color Coalition. Co-host: Lois Cox.
- **Thursday, April 17** -- ATHLETIC COMPLIANCE with Assoc. Director of Compliance Andy Banse. It will be held from 1:00 until 2:00 pm in Room 1117 UCC. A light lunch will be served before the program beginning at 12:15 pm. Host: Ellie Herman.
- **Tuesday, May 13** --CAMPUS TREE TOUR with Urban Forest Supervisor Andy Dahl. It will be held from 1:00 until 2:30 pm. Attendees will meet on the east side of Macbride Hall at 12:45 pm. Host: Nancy Langguth.

The committee decided that, for these programs, *The Gray Hawk* announcements and email notices will direct any necessary RSVP responses and questions to the host of that particular program. Nancy Langguth commented that this spring's programs offer a particularly nice mix of senior living, arts/sports, indoor/outdoor opportunities. Thanks to our chair, Deb Cobb, for skillful planning.

SIG - Explorers Report - Alice Atkinson, Lesanne Fliehler

February Walk

- Thursday, February 6, 2:00 p.m., Crandic Park

Upcoming Walk

- Tuesday, February 25, 2:00 p.m., Harkin Trailhead

March walks have not been scheduled yet.

Website Update Committee - Rachel Stewart (Chair), Carol McGhan, and Lesanne Fliehler

The committee met via Zoom on Wednesday, February 5.

All members in attendance.

Rachel noted changes that she made to the website based on prior discussions:

- Added a “Get Involved” main menu item and moved Special Interest Groups and Photo Contest under that section
- Renamed “Perks and Opportunities” to “Perks and Discounts.”

Further revisions discussed:

- Adding small photos to various “cards” and pages for visual interest
- Hard coding the Past Events page so we can add speaker photos and video screenshots.
- Bringing the History page up to date with a simple timeline.
- Promoting committee membership by adding a Standing Committees page under “Get Involved.”
- Adding more 2024 and 2025 news items (DONE)

Our next meeting will be via Zoom on Monday, March 3, at 2 p.m.

Old Business

- Update UIRA History document

Evalyn will take on the task of researching and writing an update on the history of UIRA.

- T-shirts and name tag logo (Chris and Mike H)
- Chris reported that Diana had found the UI approved logos for UIRA in a brand policy site @ <https://brand.uiowa.edu/lockup/4041>.
- Cindy received mailing about student support in *OneDayfor Iowa*. Consider a direct mailing for our scholarship. Find other ways to encourage and make members more aware. Email notification in advance to specify what program will benefit. Evalyn is already working on this.
- UIRA/UHR Leadership Bi-Annual meeting with Joni Troester & Cheryl Reardon

▪ **New Business**

- UIRA’s 30th anniversary in 2025—Evalyn will set up *ad hoc* committee to start planning activities for the autumn.

Announcement –Eileen Bartos confirmed that the revised UIRA language submitted for the *UI Policy Manual* was accepted with the addition of the word “either” and is now available online at: <https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/governance/university-iowa/advisory-bodies/university-iowa-retirees-association-charter>

Adjournment

On a motion from Jean Florman, seconded by Mike B., Evalyn adjourned the meeting at 1:50 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, 121-USB