

University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2025

Hybrid: 121-P USB and Zoom, 1:00PM

MINUTES

Attending: Michael Barron, Chris Brus, Diana Lundell, Rachel Stewart, Todd Stewart, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, and Cathy Wilcox.

Not attending: Deb Cobb, Lois Cox, Jean Florman, Mike Hovland, Cindy Seyfer, Minetta Gardinier

Call to Order – Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, President, called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion from Diana Lundell, seconded by Chris Brus, the February 18, 2025 minutes were approved.

Reports from Officers

President-Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash

Following the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)Meeting with HR on February 17,with HR staff Joni Troester, two IT staff, Andrea French and UIRA BOD members, Evalyn, Cindy Seyfer, Mike Hovland and Lois Cox , Evalyn drafted funding request proposals for potential support from HR and the President's Office. Joni Troester requested two proposals: (1) a one-time request for the 30th anniversary celebration and (2) a request for ongoing financial support. The drafts of the proposals were included in the BOD packet and Evalyn will send them to Joni.

Annual Meeting & 30th Anniversary Celebration: The annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 27, in 2520-D UCC. BOD prefers to have UIRA members attend the celebration in person. During the summer, members may be on vacation and fall is a better time to have the celebration. By consensus the BOD decided not to incorporate the 30th anniversary celebration into the annual meeting and schedule an event(s) for the fall. Evalyn will work on forming an ad hoc celebration committee.

At the Annual Meeting, the BOD gives a brief power point presentation to showcase the year's activities. In 2024, Ed Dove who was the past president, prepared the power point and included the Membership Committee's attendance report by programs. Chris Brus will review program attendance from last year and will provide information for the 2024-25 year. Committee chairs need to provide information to Evalyn of their activities. Photos were included in the power point and Evalyn welcomes suggestions for photos. The draft of the power point will be reviewed at the May BOD meeting.

One Day for Iowa Campaign:

Lois Cox and Evalyn participated in a Zoom orientation for One Day for Iowa, where they learned about available resources to promote the UIRA Scholarship Fund. Lesanne Fliehler helped prepare a special email message that was sent to all UIRA members on Friday, March 14. A reminder will be sent closer to the event date which is March 26, 2025.

Engagement with the International Women's Club of Iowa City:

Evalyn was invited and attended English classes organized by the International Women's Club of Iowa City, a volunteer group supporting English-language learners from 38 different countries. Evalyn is a member of the club and hopes to encourage retirees to get involved. Volunteers are especially needed for childcare while mothers attend the hour-long classes. The club also offers craft sessions, cooking lessons, coffee groups, and "girls' night out" events.

Age-Friendly University Recognition:

Evalyn has explored the possibility of obtaining recognition as an Age-Friendly University, supporting universities to promote positive and active aging. The application process is rigorous and requires a strong commitment. Evalyn will provide information at the April BOD meeting.

President Elect-Lois Cox

Lois attended her first EFC meeting as a stand-in for Deb Cobb. Meeting began with a few minutes of reminiscences about members who died over the past month, followed by a moment of silence to remember them. Standing committee reports followed. There seems to be some concern about proposed changes in the library; stay tuned. Meeting ended with a brief presentation from a retired faculty member: Peter Thorne, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Health gave a presentation entitled "Climate Change & Health". Incidentally, Prof. Thorne mentioned that he was a member of a Science Advisory Board to the EPA until 2-3 weeks ago when the board was dissolved and he was fired from that post. He had previously understood that the existence of the board was required by statute.

Past President-Deb Cobb-no report

Treasurer-Todd Stewart.

Todd reviewed the Cash Flow and Budget sheet activity from 8/1/2025 through 2/28/2005.

Standing Committee Reports

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

Mike reported that the committee has nominations for the Service to University award and for the Service to Community award. The June issue of the Gray Hawk, will feature the winners. Presentations of the awards are made at the June Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting the UIRA president announces the recipient of the President's Award and that person is featured in the September Gray Hawk.

Budget Committee- Todd Stewart (Chair)-Nothing to report.

Gray Hawk-Diana Lundell-Editor

Deadlines – April issue, Board Review: March 19-23, Layout to Kellie: March 26, Distribution: March 27 30

Lesanne Fliehler has reminded president-elect Lois Cox that she will not be designing the Gray Hawk newsletter after the June issue. Diana Lundell will continue to serve as the content creator/editor but is not able to design the Gray Hawk.

With Lois' okay, Lesanne contacted some professional designers and there are three that do freelance work or own their own business who have expressed interest in designing the Gray Hawk.

BOD requested that the three submit proposal bids, show sample of their work, describe how they would redo the Gray Hawk, and an estimate of the cost. Diana will follow up with the three to request this information. After these are submitted, BOD will decide about the next step.

BOD expressed many thanks to Lesanne Fliehler for helping BOD find a professional designer.

Photo Contest:

Entry deadline was March 15, judging March 19-April 2, winners notified April 9-12. Awards and judges compensation will be paid out after April 14. There were 36 submissions. Contest expenses are: \$300 for judges compensation and \$300 for prizes. UIRA has already received the \$600 from Hills Bank and the Hills Bank representative will be invited to the June Annual Meeting. Diana will provide information about the winners and the judges to Todd Stewart, Treasurer, and he mail checks to the individuals.

Photos and captions prepped for Gray Hawk April 12-18

First Place winners will run in Gray Hawk May issue

Second and Third place winners will run in Gray Hawk June issue

Although the winners will be in the Gray Hawk issues, BOD suggested that after the winners have been selected that an email be sent to the UIRA members to let them know who won the photo contest and that the winners will be featured in the May and June's Gray Hawk.

Those submitting photos must be current UIRA members. A member of the Special Interest Writer's Group submitted a photo and was not a UIRA member and the photo was not sent to the judges.

Discussion ensued about how UIRA Special Interest Groups (SIG) are formed: how/who determines forming a SIG, is there a liaison between a SIG and UIRA, should the liaison be the Program Committee/Chair, should SIG members be UIRA members. Chris Brus will review the UIRA By-Laws and will write up expectations of SIG.

Manual Update and Orientation Committee- Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash (Chair), Lois Cox
Nothing to report.

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

All committee members were present at the March 3, 2025 meeting of the UIRA Membership Committee and the following items were discussed.

UIRA Membership Dataset

Cindy Seyfer and Lesanne Fliehler met with Kellie Digmann and Andrea French in HR to further refine the UIRA membership dataset. They are finding a solution to the issues about having to sort our data and working to add two additional columns to our dataset, the amount of dues paid, and a column for the ID of a UIRA spouse or partner. In the review of the dataset, Chris Brus noted that there is a person who does not have prior employment with the UI and she will follow up with that person.

Membership Committee Timeline and Tasks

Chris presented a draft of the document that has added tasks and discussed the best way to spread the tasks out over the productive months of committee work (less in November-December) to help stay ahead of any deadlines. Will look at tasks related to items needed for the Gray Hawk and add them to the timeline going forward. Chris will provide information about the membership timeline that should be added to the Orientation Manual.

Attendee Log

Copies of the Attendee Log from 2023-24 were reviewed. Chris will go through the attendance sheet she has and set up the “program” columns that we can add to our membership dataset when usable, after which Cindy Seyfer and Chris will log attendees into the appropriate columns. The hope is to use static copies of the membership dataset in separate worksheets for attendance, committee activities, or tracking big events like the 30th anniversary event.

Introductory Memberships expiring in August 2025

The Backlog of Introductory members has been combined with the monthly retiree pulls Kellie does each month to look at all Introductory memberships that will expire in August of 2025. This will be the first group to have the option of joining/renewing an introductory membership and the committee will be watching them closely during the next renewal cycle. There could be an increase in the number or paid members. This group represents 695 UI employees who retired from June 1, 2023 to Dec 16, 2024. There is an additional 81 retirees from Dec 19, 2024 to January 16, 2025 that may be added. Committee will need confirmation from Kellie of when she changed the welcome letter for 2025, which has an expiration date of Aug 2026.

Letters, emails & forms that need to be updated

During the next two months committee will be updating the following:

- Multiple emails for the renewal period

- The hardcopy info sheet on UIRA that goes in the HR packet for new retirees.

- The membership form on the website that is printable.

Committee will also be meeting with Rachel Stewart to update some of the text on the membership page of the UIRA website, and revisiting a draft of a more user friendly, conditional data collection protocol for online renewal.

Membership Committee and Website Update Committee will have a combined meeting because as the Membership Committee works on clarifying membership timeline, the UIRA website needs to reflect the information. Both Chris Brus and Rachel Stewart decided that having a joint committee meeting will be most productive for both committees.

The next meeting of the Membership Committee will be April 3, 2025 and is a lunch meeting hosted by Lesanne Fliehler. Committee welcomes, and will discuss, any suggestions sent to them prior to this scheduled monthly meeting.

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

Mike Hovland reported that the committee is in the process of getting bios and head shots for the new BOD nominees that will be published in the April Gray Hawk.

Discussed timeline for voting-emails sent to UIRA members about voting after April Gray Hawk is sent. Need to decide if email for voting will link to ballot as done in the past or link to UIRA website to vote. Names of new BOD will appear in June Gray Hawk. New BOD members attend and are introduced at the June Annual Meeting.

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

Lois Cox filled in for Deb and chaired a meeting of the Program Committee from 1 until 2 pm on Tues., March 4. Also present were J. Florman, N. Langguth, E. Van Allen-Shalash, and C. Wilcox. The main agenda item was fine-tuning upcoming programs.

Past program:

Tues., March 11, 1-2 pm. **THEATER IN THE CORRIDOR.** Adam Knight, Producing Artistic Director of Riverside Theatre, will convene and lead a panel of theater professionals from the Iowa City/Coralville/Cedar Rapids area. The in person only program was held at Riverside Theatre's home on the Ped Mall. Backstage tour was available following the program.

Upcoming programs:

Tues., April 8, 10:15 – 11:30 am. **SPRING BUILDING UPDATE BUS TOUR with** ROD LEHNERTZ, SR. VP for Finance and Operations - tour of the Westside campus with a focus on new or reconfigured buildings. Meet near Bumps Restaurant at Finkbine Golf Course clubhouse. Arrive between 10:00 and 10:15 am; bus will depart promptly at 10:30. The tour will last approximately 1 hour. Following the tour, those who wish to do so will have a self-financed lunch at Bump's. RSVPs are requested to Ellie Herman by 4/1. There are only 30 seats on the bus. RSVP separately to the tour and the lunch.

Thurs., April 10, 12:45-1:45 pm. **THEY DON'T WANT HER THERE** with Attorney Carolyn Chalmers and Professor Emerita Jean Jew. Both will discuss Ms. Chalmers's book concerning the case of JEW V. UNIVERSITY OF IOWA (S.D. IOWA 1990). Room 235 of Boyd Law Building. UIRA is co-sponsoring this program with the College of Law, University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, Organization of Women Law Students and Staff, and Women of Color Coalition.

Thurs., April 17. **ATHLETIC COMPLIANCE** –Assoc. Director of Compliance Andy Banse. Room 1117, UCC, with a light lunch beginning at 12:15 pm. The talk will be from 1:00 until 2:00 pm. RSVPs for the lunch are due to Ellie Herman by 4/11.

Tues., May 13, 1:00 pm. **CAMPUS TREE TOUR** - Urban Forest Supervisor Andy Dahl. The walk will last from 1:00 until 2:00 pm. Meet at approximately 12:45 on the east side of Macbride Hall.

Other ideas: Other discussion centered on Jean Florman's frustrating (for her) attempts to reach a representative of Homeland Security who may be able to help arrange a time for Global Entry interviews in Iowa City. She is also working on putting together information for a possible UIRA outing to Des Moines next year for a performance of Ballet Des Moines and related activities. More information will be forthcoming.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Explorer's Report-Alice Atkinson-no report submitted

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

The committee met via Zoom on Monday, March 3. Attendees: Rachel Stewart, Carol McGhan, and Lesanne Fliehler.

Committee reviewed the new "Join a Committee" page and discussed changes that Rachel Stewart will make to the "Perks and Discounts" page. Will plan to add something to the site soon to promote UIRA's 30th anniversary – perhaps a visual element (logo) on the homepage. Also considering a separate page to promote the event, rather than only a calendar entry. Might want to include a message from the UIRA president/board about recognizing this anniversary, with a link to a web form that people can use to RSVP. Next meeting will be during the first week of April.

New Business: Set up 30th Anniversary-event(s) will be in fall 2025 and not at the June Annual meeting.

On a motion from Diana Lundell, seconded by Rachel Stewart, Evalyn adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.