

University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Date: January 20, 2026 1:00 PM
Hybrid: 2520-B UCC

Attending: John Allen, Michael Barron, Lois Cox, Jean Florman, Nancy Langguth, Diana Lundell, Mike Noel, Cindy Seyfer, Rachel Stewart, Todd Stewart, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, Cathy Wilcox, Ed Dove

Absent: Diana Lundell, Todd Stewart

Call to Order –Lois Cox, President, called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Mike Barron, seconded by Mike Noel the December 9, 2025 minutes were approved.

Reports from Officers

President –Lois Cox - On Dec. 16, Cindy and Lois met again with Joni Troester via Zoom. Joni reported that she had met with Maria Lukas of the General Counsel's office concerning UIRA's query about better access to retiree contact information. On Maria's advice, Joni referred us to the Policy Manual and FOIA guidelines for the general rule that employee's personal information is exempt from disclosure, with certain exceptions that don't include UIRA's needs. Lois reviewed the references cited and it appeared to her that Maria's interpretation of them is accurate. Lois asked Joni about EFC access to contact information of retired faculty, whether their situation is different because emeritus faculty members automatically become members of the organization. Joni said she'd check on that and get back to Lois.

They also discussed UIRA liaisons to other university committees, now that UIRA has established a liaison relationship with FRIC. Specifically, as suggested by Nancy, Lois mentioned the Stanley Museum of Art and the Presidential Committee on Athletics (PCA). Joni provided the contact information for the PCA and said she would get back to us on the Stanley. Lois hasn't yet received responses to the questions about EFC access to contact information or the Stanley, but will check back with Joni. Joni reported that Pres. Wilson is not open to the idea of UIRA having a vote on FRIC because she believes that voting membership should be limited to current students, staff, and faculty. Lois thought that the comment applied to charter committees generally.

Lois spoke with Ellie Herman in December, and she expressed interest in attending PCA meetings on behalf of UIRA. Ellie also suggested that UIRA designate Gail Wadley, another UIRA member, to be an alternate in case she is unable to attend. Gail is also happy to accept that responsibility. Lois has been in touch with the PCA chair, Prof. Gary Pierce, as well as the staff liaisons, and they have welcomed UIRA participation in the persons of Ellie and Gail.

Lois indicated that Article IX of the UIRA bylaws, Revision of the Bylaws, provides as follows: The Bylaws may be modified or adopted at any regular or special meetings of the Board at which a quorum/simple majority is present, in-person or virtually. The Board must receive written notice of proposed changes to the Bylaws at least 10 days prior to the vote. The motion must pass by a two thirds majority. Notice of approved revisions shall be published in the next issue of The Gray Hawk.

Based on this information the discussion at the December BOD meeting of amending the bylaws to change the name of the group of new members did not comply with Article IX (See Old Business) .

UIRA did not receive advance information from the UI Center for Advancement (UICA) about participating in One Day for Iowa, which will be held on March 25, 2026. Lois received an email a few days before the deadline to opt in to this and she was able to meet their deadline. Publicity will begin in the February edition of The Gray Hawk.

Lois will participate in the Big10 Retiree's Association conference call on Friday, January 23. The meeting is to plan for and brainstorm about the next annual meeting that will be held in August.

President Elect-Rachel Stewart- Rachel will not be able to participate in the Big10 Retiree's Association conference call with Lois due to other commitments.

Past President— Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash-see Program Planning Committee report.

Treasurer – Todd Stewart-A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report and the vote was unanimous.

EFC Liaison to UIRA-Ed Dove-The EFC does not meet in January.

UIRA Liaison to EFC-John Allen-no report because the EFC does not meet in January.

Committee Reports

Awards Committee- Mike Barron (Chair), Nancy Langguth-Mike reported that the committee has received a nomination and is seeking more nominations for two awards. One award is for Service and Contributions to the University while in retirement and the other award is for Service and Contribution to the Community while in retirement. After the awards are made, the names of the two recipients are added to a plaque that is on display at the IMU lobby.

Suggestions were made to create a page for awards on the UIRA website. This new page will include names of the award recipients as well as recipients of the UIRA Scholarship. Rachel Stewart will work on creating this page and will review past issues of the Gray Hawk for names of the awardees/recipients.

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

Gray Hawk –Diana Lundell-Editor- Diana provided deadline dates for the February issue. Kellie will email the newsletter via Dispatch on January 30. This issue is being completed by Lesanne Fliehler.

Photo Contest : The deadline is March 6, 2026. The contest will be publicized in the February issue of the Gray Hawk. Hill Bank is the sponsor again for \$600.

Manual Update & Orientation Committee - Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash (Chair), Lesanne Fliehler, Chris Brus. Evalyn indicated that she is responsible for making changes to the Manual when any bylaws are changed.

Membership Committee - Cindy Seyfer (Chair), Chris Brus, Diana Lundell, Mike Noel, Kevin Ward, Kit Gerkin

Cindy reported that UIRA has 550 dues-paying members, which is an increase of 4. Unfortunately, no others of the expired dues-paying members who received the postcard mailing became dues-paying members. The mailing cost \$48 and one expired member renewed for a three-year period with a payment of \$30 and UIRA did not break even. It was disappointing that UIRA did not end up with more dues paying members but the effort was worth trying.

UIRA has 517 complimentary members, with 59 new complimentary members based on December retirements. Some complimentary members choose to become dues-paying members before their complimentary membership expired.

Meeting Recap with SEIU retiree-Lois Cox and Cindy met with the retired nurse leader from UIHC that Joni Troester had suggested. The purpose of the meeting was to seek suggestions on how UIRA could increase memberships from SEIU retirees. The main suggestion on how to encourage complementary members to become dues-paying members is to have current members do personal outreach to recently retired employees that they know. The retired nurse is now a dues-paying member because a friend who is in UIRA told her know about the organization and the programs. More discussion is needed to determine if this suggestion is feasible.

At the January 6th meeting, committee members focused on the following items:

Finalized the text that will be used for the 2026-2027 hard copy "Welcome Letter". This letter is shared with Rebecca Olson in UHR for Benefits staff to provide to retirees who have in-person meetings. The text was updated with the new branding language, "Stay Connected – Stay Engaged – Stay a Hawkeye" being used in other UIRA communications. The letter cannot be finalized and forwarded to UHR until the 2026-2027 UIRA Board of Directors is determined.

Planning a "meet and greet" for complimentary members. BOD reviewed suggestions and decided to have the "meet and greet" prior to the February 10, 2026 program on Money Management. Two different RSVPs-will be used-one for complementary members and one for paid members . The dispatch to the complementary members will inform them about lunch, brief presentations by BOD members , and the opportunity to meet other members. The following BOD members will present: Lois Cox-information about UIRA; Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash- programs; Cindy Seyfer –membership.

Need to review UIRA website information on membership and make changes as needed.

Planning a fall kick-off event. The Barn Party has been very successful and Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash will contact Pam Terrill and Steve Schekel to ask if they are willing to have the event again at their barn in fall 2026. If that location is not available the committee has eight other possible locations for the BOD to consider.

Should UIRA create a YouTube channel for the recordings of program presentation? A YouTube channel would allow UIRA to track usage.

What options would UIRA have when the UI will no longer support Zoom? Current plan is for Zoom to be replaced in mid-2027.

Survey to Dues-Paying Members: Kellie Digmann collaborated with Rachel Stewart on the Qualtrics survey. Qualtrics tracks and analyzes the data. The plan is to send the survey out to the dues-paying members soon.

Nominating Committee- Jean Florman (Chair), Mike Barron, Lois Cox- The committee has a good list of possible new board directors and will be contacting those individuals soon. Although increasing the size of the board is not strictly within our purview, we have discussed it since we would need to nominate additional people if the board size is increased.

Program Planning Committee- Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash(Chair), John Allen, Lois Cox, Jean Florman, Pat Kenner, Diana Lundell, Rachel Stewart, Rick Walton, Cathy Wilcox

The Program Planning Committee met on December 2 via Zoom.

Discussed Upcoming Programs for February:

Tuesday, 2-10-26, 11:30-2:30pm, Clark Buelt, Money Management., 2520-D UCC, Evalyn will order sub sandwiches. Lunch at 12:30. Program 1:00-2:00 pm. This will be the first Meet and Greet event for complimentary members. Complimentary members arrive at 11:45 for a short presentation from board members, then lunch with paid members who signed up for lunch.

Sunday, 2-15-26, 4:00 – 6:30 pm, HomeBrewed band/Food Pantry FUNDRAISER, Tavern Blue in Coralville. UIRA Board please arrive by 3:30 pm. May need to direct people to their reserved tables. Evalyn will work with Pete, Eric, and the collegiate representatives who will co-sponsor the event to promote the event .

2-18-26, 11:00-1:30pm, Marian Wilson Kimber, "Delsarte Method" (in advance of Music Man's performance at Hancher). 2520 UCC. Evalyn will order FireHouse sandwiches for lunch. Light lunch at 11:30. Program 12-1:00 pm. The name for this program in the Gray Hawk is Grecian Urns: The Posing Women Behind The Music Man.

Evalyn provided the current list of programs for March-May with details still being worked on.

MARCH: Tuesday, 3-24-26, 11:30-2:30pm, Mary Charlton, "Iowa Cancer Registry"--Check for title and time. Decide on refreshments.

APRIL: Tuesday, 4-14-26, 11:30 - 1:00 pm, Dr. James Blum and Dr. Jason Misurac; "AI in Medicine", [Decide lunch or refreshments] Diana coordinating. She has photos & bios. Double check room if extra half hour at start is necessary.

MAY: Capital Culture Itinerary—Jean Florman is coordinating this event and it will now be on Sunday, May 17. The ballet performance will be a matinee. More details will be forthcoming on the schedule for that day. Members will need to drive to Des Moines on their own. Some directors offered to check with people that they know who have hired a bus and driver for different events.

Plans for 30th anniversary celebration--"PEARLS OF WISDOM".. In place of a keynote speaker the committee decided to have a program on cinema, working title "Movies of our Lives", for members aged approximately 65-85. Corey Creekmur, Associate Professor of Film Studies, will prepare a program. Event will be a meal and the program. More details forthcoming, including date, time, and venue.

Next committee meeting: Tuesday, February 3, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, 2520-C UCC.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Explorer's Report-Co-leaders:Lesanne Flieher, Marianne Mason

All walks begin at 2:00pm.

February 18 – Court Hill Trail-Meet at McPherson Park 1858 7th Avenue Court, Iowa City.

March 18 – Muddy Creek Trail-Meet at Wickham Elementary School (601 Oakdale Blvd., Coralville—no school that day.

Website Update Committee- Rachel Stewart (Chair), Lesanne Fliehler, Carol McGhan-nothing to report

Old business:

Discussion of increased board size. BOD agreed that it would be beneficial to have two or possibly three new directors for the 2026-27 year. BOD needs to determine what skill sets are needed from new directors to help on specific UIRA committees. It is apparent that UIRA needs someone with experience working on websites because Rachel Stewart will be the President in the 2026-27 year and will not have time to be both the chair of the Website committee and President.

Increasing the number of directors requires an amendment to the by-laws and written notice for this must be sent to the BOD at least 10 days in advance of the next meeting, which is on February 17. Lois Cox will write up two proposals to be reviewed and voted on by the BOD.

Revision of by-laws for name change of membership type from Introductory to Complimentary. Cindy Seyfer will send out a written notice to change the name at least 10 days in advance of the February 17 meeting.

Volunteerism opportunities-there is interest in informing the membership about volunteer opportunities but UIRA needs a director/member to be the chair. This would be a topic for further discussion after UIRA increases the size of the board.

New Business

Appointment of liaisons to the Presidential Committee on Athletics (PCA): A motion was made, seconded, and voting was unanimous to have Ellie Herman and Gail Wadley as UIRA co-liaisons to the PCA. The first meeting will be in February. They will send their report to the Secretary in time for the information to be included in the Board Packet .

Adjourn: On a motion from Mike Barron, seconded by Mike Noel Lois adjourned the meeting at 2:34 pm.