

University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Date: December 9, 2025 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, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, Cathy Wilcox

Absent: Todd Stewart, Tom Vaughn, Ed Dove

Call to Order –Lois Cox, President, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Mike Barron, seconded by Cindy Seyfer, the November 18, 2025 minutes were approved.

Reports from Officers

President –Lois Cox – Lois reported that she sent Joni Troester the same summary of the October 22 meeting that she gave to the board at the November meeting and specifically with regard to the membership question about the outer limits of UIRA's ability to access contact information for retirees who are not UIRA members. Joni has scheduled a further meeting with Lois and Cindy Seyfer for December 16. Lois will report back on the meeting at the January BOD meeting.

Mike Barron has been semi-formally recognized as a UIRA liaison to FRIC. He has been given the Zoom link, welcomed by the committee chairs, etc.

Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash and Cindy Seyfer followed up with the retired nurse that Joni suggested for ideas on increasing UIRA membership. Cindy and Lois plan to have a coffee with her sometime soon and will provide a report at a future BOD meeting.

The mid-year meeting of the Big Ten Retirees Association will be held by phone on Friday, Jan. 23. Lois and Rachel Stewart are invited to participate. Lois encouraged the BOD to let her know soon if there are questions or issues for her to address at that meeting. Lois recalled from last year's meeting, that the time was mostly spent planning for and brainstorming about the next annual meeting.

President Elect-Rachel Stewart- no report.

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

Treasurer – Todd Stewart-The BOD reviewed the monthly Income/Expense statement and the Balance sheet. A motion was made and seconded to approve the report and the vote was unanimous.

EFC Liaison to UIRA-Tom Vaughn/Ed Dove-no report

UIRA Liaison to EFC-John Allen/Nancy Langguth-Nancy attended the Monday, December 1 Emeritus Faculty Council meeting. Life highlights were shared for five deceased members followed by a moment of memorial silence – a very meaningful part of the council’s meeting.

The meeting was organized around reports from the standing committees and liaison assignments to the various University Charter Committees. The Communications Committee is working on making needed adjustments to the listserv. The Lecture Committee reported having three speakers lined up for the spring – with programs typically on the third Thursday of the month “so it’s in people’s minds.” Of the liaisons’ reports from various University Charter Committees, it seemed that UIRA representation on the Athletics and Art Museum Charter Committees might be worthwhile.

During the UIRA liaison’s report, Nancy highlighted the Thursday, December 11 “A Conversation with UI President Barbara Wilson” lunch/program and the Sunday, February 15 “Music, Meals, and Making a Difference” event in support of the Food Pantry at Iowa.

The speaker was Daniel Khalastchi, the executive director of the new University of Iowa Office of Writing and Communication. The office was established in August to coordinate and enhance the university’s many writing and communication programs, ensuring they remain a core strength of the Iowa undergraduate and graduate student experience.

The next meeting will be in February.

Committee Reports

Awards Committee- Mike Barron (Chair), Nancy Langguth-nothing to report.

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

Gray Hawk –Diana Lundell-Editor-Diana provided deadline dates for the January newsletter. The Gray Hawk email will be sent by Kellie on December 22/23.

Photo Contest: The deadline is March 16, 2026. We will promote the contest in the January and February issues of the Gray Hawk newsletter.

Manual Update & Orientation Committee - Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash (Chair), Lesanne Fliehler, Chris Brus-nothing to report.

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

Cindy reported that the committee met on Monday, December 1. They completed revisions on the survey to dues-paying members and want to send the survey out in mid-January. Rachel Stewart has created an online version of the survey. Cindy reviewed the survey with the BOD. Further suggestions were made and Cindy will review those with the committee.

The committee updated the text for the following emails making them less transactional and more personable and focused on the benefits of UIRA membership.

- Email to introductory (potentially soon to be complimentary) members whose membership expired in September 2025 when they did not become dues-paying members. This is the fourth email in a series that started in August 2025 and encouraged them to renew their membership.
- Email used to welcome new retirees to UIRA with a complimentary membership for an introductory period. This is sent in the month following retirement.

Per the new dataset from Kellie, 4 new dues-paying members were added since last month. Only one of these was a result of the postcard mailing to expired dues-paying members. Cindy will continue to monitor each new dataset to determine if the postcard mailing was beneficial. 21 new introductory members were added and the total is now at 461 introductory members

Nominating Committee- Jean Florman (Chair), Mike Barron, Lois Cox- Committee will be meeting after BOD meeting. They will review names of members for BOD vacancies and will discuss increasing the number of members on the BOD.

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

Evalyn reported that the Program Planning Committee met on December 2 and the following members were present: Evalyn, Lois, Rachel, Diana, Cathy, Pat, Jean, Rick

Program Review

Songs on Jane Austen (Marion Wilson Kimber and Sarah Hatchman) Thursday, November 20, Noon–1:00 pm, Iowa City Public Library. Comments received: Very good, very enjoyable, fun, very engaging, speaker was fun, having an arts event is good. Attendance was good and there were a few non UIRA members in attendance since this program was open to the public.

Upcoming Programs:

DECEMBER

State of the University (President Barbara Wilson)

Thursday, December 11, 1:00–2:00 pm, 2520-D UCC ; Meal from Firehouse Subs at 12:30; 46 RSVPs so far (29 for lunch); UI Communications staff will come to photograph the event.

UIRA / Homebrewed / Student Life Fundraiser Sunday, February 15, 4:00–6:30 pm • Tavern Blue, Coralville

Pete Damiano joined the meeting for about 15 minutes to provide insight and suggestions based on his expertise in doing fund raising events. After he left the meeting the BOD discussed some things and determined that UIRA would promote direct giving to the Food pantry rather than having other possible revenue generating things such as door prizes or silent auction. Pete mentioned at some events reserving tables in advance was an option. The program planning committee will discuss this.

Evalyn will be discussing publicity efforts (prior to and at the event) with Eric Rossow because Eric has had prior experience with publicizing events. Pete will be publicizing the fund raiser through Homebrewed's usual promotion venues.

AI in Medicine-Tuesday, April 14, Noon–1:00 pm, 2520-D UCC

Presenters: Dr. James Blum & Dr. Jason Misurac (Diana coordinating); Consider lunch

MAY

Capital Culture (Des Moines) Itinerary — Saturday, May 16

Evalyn provided details about the activities for that day/weekend. Jean Florman is the lead in coordinating events for this. The event is in May and if people want to buy ballet tickets, information will be provided at a later date on when tickets become available for purchase. Evalyn will continue to provide updates on this event at future BOD meetings.

Proposals for other programs:

Money Management-Clark Buelt-possibly for January or February

Mariam Kimber Wilson-Women's Rural groups, "Music Man"-Grecian urns-February

Mary Charlton-Iowa Cancer Registry-spring semester

America's Civil War: Our Country's Enduring Legacy-David Johnson this year or next year

History of the Pledge of Allegiance-Allan Vestal –next year

Consider piggybacking on student run lecture committee programs starting next year; possibly Levitt Center involvement (suggestion from Jean)

30th Anniversary Activities — "PEARLS OF WISDOM"

Evalyn discussed reaching out to the first speaker of choice and is waiting to hear back from that person. The committee has recommended a second choice speaker. Lois suggested the BOD provide names for other speakers in the event that the first and second choice speakers are not available.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 6, 1:00–2:30 pm, Note: Evalyn will be abroad; will be ZOOM meeting.

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

Old Business:

Increase Board Size-defer to January meeting

Volunteerism-defer to future meeting.

More Committee liaisons-Nancy Langguth attended the December EFC meeting and the EFC liaisons reported on the charter committees that they were on. Nancy thought that it would be beneficial for UIRA to consider having representation on the Athletics and the Art Museum Charter Committees.

BOD has discussed having UIRA liaisons to other Charter Committees at past meetings and it was helpful to have Nancy's insight into this. The UIRA representative does not have to be on the UIRA BOD. The name of a possible UIRA member for the liaison for athletics was brought up. Lois will reach out to this person. Another suggestion was to have information in the Gray Hawk to ask for volunteers who might be interested in being a liaison. If it is a non BOD member, the liaison would provide a written report or an in person report at a BOD meeting. Lois will discuss having UIRA liaisons on the two committees with Joni.

New Business:

Cindy Seyfer reported that the Membership Committee is requesting a name change from "introductory" membership to "complimentary" membership. Complimentary implies free and this will better describe this category of membership that is for **an introductory** period.

A motion was made, discussion took place and a vote was taken for the name change. The vote was unanimous. Another motion was made to update the UIRA By-laws to change introductory to complimentary and the vote was unanimous. Cindy indicated that Chris Brus, who is on the Manual Update Committee, has offered to update the By-laws.

Report from FRIC –Mike Barron attended his first FRIC meeting as the UIRA liaison. There are 7 faculty and 7 staff members who are voting members of the committee. Topics of discussion included expansion of UI Health Care's emergency departments, insurance enrollment updates, reviewing the FRIC charter committee because President Wilson has asked all charter committees to review their charters, Joni Troester retiring on June 1 and Mike Kaplan has been hired to replace her.

Adjourn: On a motion from Mike Barron seconded by John Allen, Lois adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm.