

**University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA)**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026**  
**Hybrid: 2520-B UCC / Zoom**

**Attendance**

Present: John Allen, Lois Cox, Jean Florman, Nancy Langguth, Diana Lundell, Cindy Seyfer, Rachel Stewart, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash, Tom Vaughan (EFC); Via Zoom: Diana, Mike Barron, and Mike Noel

Absent: Cathy Wilcox and Todd Stewart

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Lois indicated the need to move efficiently through the agenda.

The Board expressed gratitude to Evalyn for organizing the Food Pantry event.

**Approval of January Minutes**

On a motion from John Allen, seconded by Jean Florman, unanimous vote: January 20, 2026 minutes were approved.

**Reports from Officer**

President – Lois

- *One Day for Iowa* and Bylaws revisions will be discussed later in the agenda.
- No additional report unless questions.

President-Elect – Rachel

- No report.

Past President – Evalyn

- 30th Anniversary Celebration Planning
- Wayne Richey Ballroom— After considering a variety of possible venues, strong preference emerged for a simple, familiar venue with catering, tables, and parking convenience.
  - Sunday evening event
  - 6:00 p.m. start
  - Buffet meal followed by program
  - Consider charging a modest fee to offset catering.

Jean moved to hold the 30th Anniversary event in the IMU Richey Ballroom; seconded by Mike B.; Unanimous approval.

Additional details to confirm:

- Catering arrangements
- Whether to charge attendees and at what level
- Sunday. April 26 under consideration; need to confirm with Corey Creekmur's availability.

Secretary – Cathy- No report (absent).

Treasurer – Todd

Treasurer's report presented. Mike B. moved to approve the treasurer's report; seconded by Cindy; unanimous approval

## **Liaison Reports**

EFC Liaison – John Allen

- ADA Website Accessibility:
  - Federal regulations now require all websites to meet accessibility standards.
  - Rachel will review UIRA website compliance.
  - PDFs may require modification or replacement with accessible web pages.
  - CashNet transaction site accessibility will be verified.
  - Reminder: All images must include alt-text tags.

Additional Items:

- Athletic budget reported to be \$170 million.
- Decline in male graduates noted as a national trend.
- Upcoming EFC lecture: *Teaching Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- Discussion about outreach to Emeritus faculty and coordination with HR regarding continued UIowa email usage.

FRIC liaison -Mike unable to attend February meeting; will request minutes in advance if possible.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

Program Planning- Evalyn

- Positive feedback on recent events.
- Discussion regarding whether to provide appetizers at future programs.

Membership – Cindy

- Membership survey: 140 responses received.
- Reminders will be sent; duplicates cannot be filtered out automatically.

PCA – Lois reported on written report from Ellie Herman and Gayle Wadley.

- There is a separate student senate for athletes.
- Lois will send us notes not in the monthly report

## **Bylaws Revisions**

### **1. Membership Terminology & Structure**

- Replacing “Introductory” with “**Complimentary**” (with defined sunset period).
- Clarifying transition from complimentary to annual/continuing membership.
- Avoiding overly transactional language (e.g., “dues-paying”).
- Distinguish bylaws (structural) from operational procedures (in *Operations Manual*).
- Membership year runs September–August.
- Agreed: Bylaws should contain broad framework only.
- Operational details to reside in *Operations Manual*.

- Final language must be approved at the **March Board meeting** to notify members whose status expires in August.
- Membership Committee will revise and circulate updated draft before March meeting.

## 2. Board Size

- Proposal 1: Change number of Directors-at-Large: **“The Board shall be elected by the UIRA membership and shall consist of five officers—president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and past president—and no fewer than seven nor more than ten directors-at-large as determined by the Board. One director-at large may serve as editor of *The Gray Hawk*, and one may serve as webmaster. An Emeritus Faculty Council (EFC) member may serve as a non-voting member of the Board.”**
- Jean moved to accept change; Mike B. seconded. Unanimously approved
- Evalyn will finalize language and notify Kellie to update website.

## 3. Election & Terms Language Clarification

- Revised forward-looking language regarding Directors-at-large terms and staggering.
- Language proposed: **“Directors-at-large shall be elected as needed and shall serve three-year terms. No member of the Board may serve more than two consecutive terms or six consecutive years, except in order to complete a term as an officer of the Board.”**
- Jean moved to add **“Effective 3.1.2026”**; seconded by Mike B., Unanimously adopted.

## Nominations Committee

- Committee awaiting final determination on number of new Directors-at-Large.
- Board consensus: Aim to recruit *two additional* Directors-at-Large.
- Cindy will circulate membership database for candidate suggestions.
- Slate must be approved in April.
- Committee will meet via Zoom going forward.
- Strategic interest in recruiting individuals with web, editorial, or technical expertise.

## Old Business

### One Day for Iowa (March 25, 2026)

Historically, fundraising has supported scholarships:

- Previously: three \$1,000 scholarships
- Going forward: two \$1,500 scholarships

Board must decide:

- Whether to offer a Board-funded challenge (e.g., match first \$500), OR
- Contribute a set amount after a threshold of gifts.

Additional actions:

- Email to donor and membership lists on March 24.
- Possible “soft ask” in March *Grayhawk*.
- Social media outreach (Rachel to create Facebook event).
- Rachel to build webpage highlighting past scholarship recipients.
- Confirm Fellowship UIRA scholarship account balance at LCUA (Lois to consult Todd).
- Board may vote by email once financial information is confirmed.

### **Additional Discussion**

- Consider appointment of UIRA member liaison to Recreational Services, The Stanley Museum of Art Advisory Committee or additional committees.
- Question raised: Should UIRA make an organizational gift to the scholarship fund?
- Share *Daily Iowan* article with co-sponsors in which the fundraiser is mentioned.

### **Adjournment**

Cindy moved and Mike B seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 pm. Approved.

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

1:00–2:30 PM

2520-C UCC