

University of Iowa Retirees Association (UIRA)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2026 1:00 PM-In person and Zoom

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

Absent: Nancy Langguth, Mike Barron

Call to Order –Lois Cox, President, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion from Mike Noel, seconded by Rachel Stewart the April 21, 2026 minutes were approved.

Reports from Officers

President –Lois Cox – Lois thanked everyone for helping to make the 30th Anniversary celebration a successful event. She heard lots of good feedback following the evening, and it seems that everyone enjoyed it. Special thanks to Evalyn for all her hard work. The Program Planning Committee has suggested that UIRA should do something like this about every 5 years.

On April 27, Rachel Stewart, Cindy Seyfer, and Lois met with Joni Troester and her soon-to-be successor, Rebecca Olson, of UHR. This was Joni's final meeting with UIRA before her retirement, and they thanked her for all the help she's given to UIRA. It's anticipated that Rebecca will move seamlessly into Joni's role, since she knows UIRA well from participating in the insurance program every fall for the last several years.

Most of the meeting was spent discussing what UHR currently offers employees about retirement and what UIRA might consider doing to augment those efforts. All retiring employees are offered a one-on-one meeting with an HR advisor to discuss retirement topics, either in person or online at the employee's option. In addition, some units sponsor periodic group meetings to discuss retirement options. A one page handout about information from the UIRA recent membership survey about what members are interested in and priorities for UIRA was shared at the meeting.

Another topic of discussion was UIRA's difficulty contacting non-member retirees. Privacy considerations preclude HR from sharing retirees' personal contact information, but Joni believes that retirees' university email addresses remain the property of the university and that HR might be able to send out a message on behalf of UIRA to non-member retirees. This would be a way to re-establish contact with these retirees. Joni will check with the UI General Counsel's office before making any commitments. Lois will follow up with her.

They shared with Joni and Rebecca the results of UIRA's fundraising efforts this year and both expressed appreciation and hopes that UIRA could continue with targeted fundraising. Lois brought up reviewing/revising the MOU between UIRA and the University.

The MOU provides that it will be evaluated annually, and that hasn't happened. The MOU as it stands now reflects the situation in which it was created - i.e. that UIRA and HR/Office of the President were just beginning their official working relationship. It is important to update the document to include what we now know about how our mutual commitments and obligations actually work. Lois suggested that the review should begin in the fall and Joni and Rebecca were open to that.

On Tuesday, May 12 Cindy Seyfer and Lois met with a group of academic advisors who are approaching retirement over the next few years. The group initiated the meeting and followed the same similar format as the meet-and-greet arranged by the Membership Committee earlier this year. Both Cindy and Lois spoke about their experiences with UIRA and Cindy went over the UIRA website. After the meeting, Lois sent them the latest issue of The Gray Hawk. It would be good to encourage similar meetings with other groups.

President Elect-Rachel Stewart-no report.

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

Treasurer-Todd Stewart-.The monthly Income/Expense statement and Balance Sheet were provided to the Board. Todd is waiting for any 30th anniversary billing. There will be expenses for the incoming president and president elect to attend the Big 10 Retirees Association meeting in Minneapolis.

UIRA Liaison to the EFC-John Allen/Nancy Langguth-no report.

EFC Liaison to UIRA (Ex-Officio)-Ed Dove-The last meeting for the 2025-26 year was in early May. Ed noted that at the EFC meetings they receive information on emeritus faculty that has passed away and Ed will provide the list to the BOD.

Standing Committee Reports

Awards Committee- Mike Barron (Chair), Nancy Langguth-no report.

Budget Committee- Todd Stewart (Chair)-no report.

Gray Hawk -Diana Lundell-Editor- Diana provided the deadline dates for the June Gray Hawk.

Photo Contest-First place winning photos ran in the May Gray Hawk issue; Second and third place photos will run in the June issue.

Manual Update & Orientation Committee - Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash (chair), Lesanne Fliehler, Chris Brus-Evalyn plans to review the UIRA Manual and details for new board member orientation before she steps down as the chair. The committee incorporated changes to the bylaws and they are now posted to the UIRA website.

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

Membership Update- Dues-Paying Members: 563, an increase of 5. Complimentary Members: 679, an increase of 37, based on those who retired in April 2026.

Cindy provided a summary of what was discussed at the meeting with UIRA and UHR.

1. Rebecca Olson will review the UHR Benefits website, Planning for Retirement, which outlines important information for individuals who plan to retire in 2-3 months or up to 5-7 years and provides a Preparing to Retire Checklist, to see if UIRA could be included in the information.
2. Rebecca Olson and Kevin Ward host open enrollment meetings each fall for current retirees regarding insurance options. Rebecca suggested having a UIRA Membership Committee member attend the meetings to share information about UIRA.
3. Cindy asked if UHR could provide email addresses for all retirees from the past three years to UIRA. The committee will compare the list against current membership and contact those who are not members to inform them about UIRA in hopes of reengaging this group and increasing membership.
4. Cindy asked about the possibility of UIRA members receiving regular notification of UI newsletters such as Iowa Now and The Loop (hospital newsletter). Joni thought that Iowa Now might be an option if UIRA could provide an email list of members. This would only be an option for sustaining members since the Office of Strategic Communication would want to update their dispatch list once and complimentary members are added each month. Having Iowa Now sent automatically to sustaining members would be a great way for members to remain engaged with the University.
5. The Provost Office offers zoom meetings in September and December for faculty preparing to retire. These meetings are managed by Barry Thomas. The membership committee could contact Barry to ask about having a BOD participate in the meetings or at least provide information about UIRA for Barry to share with the group.

The committee discussed revisions for the renewal emails sent to sustaining and complimentary members in August and September and the inactivation emails sent in October.

Discussion of the Bylaws updates to the website. Kellie has updated the Bylaws PDF on the website. Rachel will update the text of the Bylaws on the website. Chris will create a draft “marked- up” version to be reviewed by the BOD and when approved, provided to Eileen Bartos to update the University Operations Manual. There was discussion about comparing the wording of the bylaws to the wording in the UI Operations Manual. The wording should not be the same. The Operations Manual should contain general rules of the organization but not the details of what in in the bylaws.

Chris Brus agreed to reach out to Tobey Kelly in the Office of Civil Rights Compliance to see if any changes have occurred to the UI Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Statements. Chris worked with Tobey last year when several wording changes were implemented to these statements. If changes occur in the University statements, then subsequent changes need to be made on UIRA webpages and email text.

Discussed with Diana the possibility of a Gray Hawk article regarding the distinctions between UIRA, Senior College, and EFC. Diana suggested that September might be the best time for this type of article. We also discussed the inclusion of a “Call for Volunteers” in future issues of the Gray Hawk with the hope of finding individuals with the right skillset to assist with the UIRA website and social media communications/posts.

Nominations Committee- Jean Florman (Chair), Mike Barron, Lois Cox, Mike Noel, Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash- No report because the committee did not meet.

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 committee met on May 5.

Past Programs: April 14, 2026, 11:30 - 1:00 pm, Dr. Jason Misurac-“AI in Medicine”. Really successful. Good turnout. Coralville Library has great free parking. Had some hesitations about IT assistance.

April 26, 2026, 6:00 pm: 30th Anniversary Celebration with speaker Corey Creekmur; “Movie Memories”—lovely, classy, good food. Great social event. Evalyn will check with Nate about \$500 room charge. Should plan something similar every 5 years.

Upcoming Programs:

May: Thursday, May 21 – 1:00 pm Professor Allan Vestal re: History of the Pledge of Allegiance (lunch provided from 12:30 pm), 2520-D UCC. Box lunches from Firehouse Subs.

JUNE: Annual Meeting: Tuesday, June 30, 2520-D UCC, 12:30 (social); 1:00 pm program; Ice cream to be provided with RSVP.

Possible Programs For Next Year: Barn Party; President Wilson; Benefits; Horse therapy woman; Burr Oak Land trust—done at previous barn party; Michelle Voss – aging brain; David Cweirty -water data; Tyler Bell—Engineering, AI; Ongoing effort by Jean Florman to get us to go out of town; Poor Farm tour (close to IC); Farm Sanctuary for disabled animals (tour available; Rick’s son-in-law volunteers there); Miracles in Motion—for children with disabilities; Hoover birthplace tour; Clinton, IA boat trip; Cinema, Film Scene—work to show movie; Speed Networking (like speed dating, 5 minutes)

Possible new locations for programs: Bioventures at Oakdale Campus; Johnson County Fairgrounds (near IC airport), UI Health Care Medical Center Downtown (old Mercy Hospital-cafeteria), Northridge Pavilion in Coralville; Coralville Library (Kellie is looking into long-term scheduling). Terry Trueblood Recreation area.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Explorer’s Report-Co-leaders: Lesanne Flieher, Marianne Mason May 20, 2:00 p.m. – Solon—Lake Macbride Recreation Trail Park at Lake Macbride State Park (3525 Highway 382 NE).

Website Update Committee- Rachel Stewart (Chair), Lesanne Fliehler, Carol McGhan-no report

Liaison Reports

Mike Barron shared information from the Funded Retirement Insurance Committee (FRIC) meeting that was held on May 1, 2026

There were two presentations. One was about the Specialty Pharmacy partnership that was started in 2019. The other was about the North Liberty Hospital Campus.

The Specialty Pharmacy Partnership provide benefits to patients that include quality of care, access to specialty drugs and cost of care, integration of care with physician providers, improved member experience, and advocacy.

The North Liberty Hospital Campus had its 1-year anniversary. Statistics were provided about which patients are being served, number of surgeries that have been performed and number of emergency patients. The campus offers a walk-in orthopedic clinic and a Saturday clinic for injured athletes as well as a 24/7 drive-through pharmacy. .

Two new insurance programs were discussed. The first is access to short-term disability insurance and there have been 1,038 enrollees with the highest numbers from P&S, SEIU, and Merit staff. The second is a new Pet Insurance program that will become available in July 2026 and offered only to current UI employees. It has two options: actual insurance or a discount program.

Ellie Herman provided information from the Presidential Committee on Athletics (PCA) meeting that was held on May 5, 2026.

At each meeting a coach is introduced and shares details about their teams and successes. At the May meeting, Lisa Cellucci, Iowa Field Hockey coach was highlighted.

Scott Brickman, Associate Athletic Director for NIL (Name, Image, & Likeness) Strategy & Revenue Generation and Matt Henderson, Deputy Director of Athletics, External Relations presented about NIL and HSP. NIL: Amounts over \$600 must be reported; this year, 20 of 22 sports reported NIL money with 228 reports submitted for 110 athletes; average report was for \$8,500. Athletes must honor exclusivity. An algorithm created by DeLoitte Management is used to determine compensation.

Hawkeye Sports Properties (HSP) partnerships occur when athletes become brand ambassadors. Athletes with a large social media following may influence NIL interest. Statistics published by Open Door Media indicates that athletes are the #1 influencers for population engagement. Part of NIL includes educating athletes about financial literacy, tax information, and information about the pre & post season process. NIL staff includes Scott and Matt, two employees of HSP devoted to NIL with plans to add one more next year. For an NIL deal a business must be a partner with HSP and athletes cannot develop their own deal with an outside business. The NIL value is influenced by sport, school, and followers (e.g., an Iowa Wrestler's NIL value is greater than at many other schools).

At each meeting, the Chair provides a report; updates are provided about any Athletic department position searches. Subcommittees reported on Academic Achievement, Policy and Legislative Compliance, and Student Athlete Well-Being.

Beth Goetz, Athletic Director, provided an NCAA/Big Ten/Athletic Director's Report. Topics included number of athletes graduating, number of hours athletes volunteered during the day of caring, NCAA Academic Progress Rate for 2024-25, fundraising goal, facilities improvements, football players drafted, renewal rates for football tickets.

The Presidential Committee on Athletics meetings are open to the public. Discussion/questions are normally limited to PCA members, Athletics Department staff members, and invited guests.

Old Business:

Volunteerism update: Rachel Stewart reported that the United Way of Johnson County has a good website about places that need volunteers. UIRA could have a link to their website.

Report on Election –Jean Florman-voting for new Board members and President Elect has ended. 184 members voted and all those on the slate were elected. Names will be officially announced at the Annual Meeting on June 30, 2026.

Appointment of liaison to additional committee-Hancher-deferred to fall when new BOD is in place.

One day for Iowa scholarship fundraising - Lois Cox has written thank you notes to those who donated funds on the fund raising day. She has contacted the UI Center for Advancement staff that organized the one day event to obtain names of those who donated after the fundraising date but they did not have access to that information. Kellie has a contact at UICA and Lois will ask Kellie to contact that person.

Update on committee chairs and members for 2026-27 year-Rachel Stewart has gotten information from current BOD on which committees they plan to serve on for the 2026-27 year. Rachel said UIRA needs a new chair for the Website Update Committee. The chair doesn't need to be a Board member. In addition, it will be beneficial for UIRA to have a webmaster and may need to recruit volunteers by placing information in the Gray Hawk. At the Annual Meeting, solicit volunteers for committees and/or special tasks.

Planning for Annual Meeting-Lois Cox and Diana Lundell will update the power point presentation from last year's Annual Meeting. Diana will select new photos for the power point. They will be requesting help from current committee chairs to update the slide information.

New Business

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)-Lois Cox and Rachel Stewart-The MOU was provided to the BOD. Lois and Rachel asked the BOD to review the MOU and if there are questions or concerns to send an email to both of them. The plan is to review the MOU with UHR in the fall.

Adjourn: On a motion from John Allen seconded by Cindy Seyfer, Lois adjourned the meeting at 2:28 PM.