

University of Iowa Retiree Association (UIRA)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026 1:00 PM-In person and Zoom

Attending: John Allen, Michael Barron, Lois Cox, Nancy Davin, Diana Lundell, Teresa Mangum, Lou Ann Montgomery, Mike Noel, Cindy Seyfer, Rachel Stewart, Todd Stewart, Cathy Wilcox,

Absent: Nancy Langguth, Jean Florman

Call to Order –Rachel Stewart, President, called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Approval of agenda: it was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June 2026 minutes were approved by email vote in June.

Reports from Officers

President –Rachel Stewart –Rachel and John Allen attended the Big Ten Retirees Association conference at the University of Minnesota on July 21-24. This year’s theme was “Retirement in the 21st Century: The Thrills, Chills, and Hopefully No Spills.” 38 representatives from 15 Big Ten schools were in attendance, and it was a great opportunity to share and gather information about our respective associations.

Attendees received an Excel file that serves as a comparison among the associations, and Rachel will share that when the conference chair sends out the final version.

Three guest speakers spoke on the following topics: How the Current Generation of Older Americans is Transforming Retirement; Public Health in Crisis: What It Means to You; Standing Our Ground: Understanding and Preventing Falls as We Age. The final speaker was Ayesha Dixon, director of UCLA’s Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center, which is an enviable one-stop shop for all future and current retirees. They have 2 ½ paid staff members who take care of the Center’s business, but also work with UCLA’s two retirement associations (Emeriti and Retirees) to offer a wealth of information and activities.

Rachel attended the following: 1) “How to keep programming strong without burnout?” 2) “Volunteer Programs,” and 3) “Member data base construction.”

A mid-year BTRA meeting (via Zoom) will be scheduled by next year’s host, Michigan State, in January or February. John will attend as President-Elect, but Rachel may not be participating because normally it would be the next president-elect, which we won’t know at that time. UIRA is scheduled to host the summer conference in 2033.

President Elect-John Allen – John will provide a report about the Big 10 Retirees Association Conference that will be included in a future BOD packet. He noted that while attending various sessions, it helped him think about potential program ideas for UIRA. He found the session on how a retirees association

can be a resource to the university particularly interesting in light of what is currently happening on university campuses.

Past President-Lois Cox-see Program Planning Committee report.

Treasurer – Todd Stewart-Todd provided the balance and expense sheets through August 10, 2026. The balance is down about 8.5 % compared to June 2025 because UIRA provided food, coffee and water at more programs this past year. There has been no revenue to report in 40 days because no dues have been collected during that time but there will be revenue in September. About 80-85% of the revenue is from dues. Todd is getting more information from Nate Robinson in the UI President's Office about how CashNet, the vended product used by the University, works and the timeline for revenue to show up.

Todd indicated that it appears that the UI President's Office paid for expenses that UIRA incurred for the 30th Anniversary party since there has not been any transaction for revenue deposits nor outstanding bills that need to be paid.

EFC Liaison to UIRA- no report.

UIRA Liaison to EFC-no report.

Committee Reports

Awards Committee- Mike Barron (Chair)-UIRA has two awards: One for Service to Community and another Service to the University. Request for nominations will begin in December. Rachel Stewart brought up the possibility of having a nomination application on the UIRA website. Cindy Seyfer suggested that during the Annual Meeting when the winners are announced that they step up to the front of the room for recognition. Mike Noel suggested that their pictures be taken by the plaque in the IMU after their names have been added.

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

Gray Hawk –Diana Lundell-Editor- Diana announced that Nancy Davin will be the coeditor. Diana and Nancy requested that an email specifically for the Gray Hawk be created rather than having emails going to them. Rachel will work with Kellie Digmann on this.

Diana provided deadline dates for the September Gray Hawk.

Manual Update & Orientation Committee - nothing to report.

Membership Committee - Cindy Seyfer (chair)-the committee met in July 2026 to wrap up work for the 2025-26 year and to discuss future initiatives.

UIRA has 573 Sustaining Members which is an increase of 10 from May and Complimentary Members at 810, up an increase of 134, based on those who retired in May and June 2026.

A new communication was sent on May 13 to sustaining and complimentary members whose membership will expire in August 2026. 27 sustaining members renewed and 2 complimentary members converted to dues- paying members.

The Committee developed procedures for ASC, Kellie Digmann, for expiration time frames for sustaining memberships based on their payment of dues and these procedures are similar to procedures used for complimentary members: New guidance for Sustaining members – dues received September through December of 2026 will have a membership expiration date of August 2027; dues received January through August of 2027 will have a membership expiration date of August 2028. For future membership years, September-December payments will expire in August of the following year; January -August payments will expire in August in the following year plus one.

Current guidance for Complimentary members – Retirement date January through December 2026 has an expiration date of August 2027; Retirement date January through December 2027 has an expiration date of August 2028. For the future membership years the following will apply since our membership year encompasses two calendar years: the first half of each membership year (fall) will have an expiration date of the following year August; the second half of each membership year (spring/summer) will have an expiration date of the following year August plus one.

Discussed new engagement initiatives for the upcoming year: present UIRA information to campus HR reps about UIRA; reach out to Alaina Hanson, Faculty HR Director in the Office of the Provost, to present UIRA information at faculty pre-retirement sessions; Kevin Ward, a member of the Membership Committee, will provide UIRA information at the fall open enrollment meetings for current retirees held at the Bioventures building; schedule “Meet and Greet” sessions for complimentary members prior to the October Health Insurance program and the December presentation by President Wilson.

Suggestions for future exploration/implementation: outreach to Kyle Anson, the VP for Health Care HR, to see if pre- retirement sessions are offered for hospital staff and if the membership committee could provide UIRA information at those meetings; outreach to merit staff currently serving on Staff Council to inquire about providing information about UIRA with their constituent group; consider reaching out to merit staff who in the past served on Staff Council and are now retired for interest in serving on the UIRA Board or committees; consider participating in the October 21, 2026 , UI Health and Well-Being Fair; consider participating in the October 31, 2026, UI Homecoming Parade.

Consider creating a liaison relationship with Staff Council similar to the liaison relationship with the EFC that would make staff aware of UIRA.

The membership Committee plans to survey complimentary members during the 2026-2027 year to obtain information on how best to provide retirees information about UIRA. The committee is waiting for HR approval for UIRA to contact those who retired in the last five years who are not currently UIRA members.

Nominations Committee- Jean Florman (Chair) no report.

Program Planning Committee-Lois Cox (Chair)

The committee met on Tuesday, Aug. 5 from 1:00 until 2:30 pm. In attendance were John Allen, Lois Cox, Diana Lundell, Rick Walton, Cathy Wilcox, and new member Susan Loomis. The fall schedule is shaping up nicely.

Sept. 9 - 11:30 am-12:30 pm, UCC 2520D - "Active Lives, Healthy Brains: Wellness Tips for Brain Health in Aging" - Speaker is Prof. Michelle Voss, director of the Univ. of Iowa's Health, Brain, and Cognition Lab, and professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. Coffee and cookies beginning at 11:00 am. John Allen to host.

Sept. 17 - 3:30-4:30 pm, Pentacrest Tree Walking Tour with Campus Arborist Andrew Dahl." Nancy Langguth to host. Rachel Stewart will welcome the group. 4:30 - 6:00 pm – after the tour a get-together at The Airliner. An area on the ground floor will be set aside for UIRA. Drinks may be purchased at the bar. UIRA to purchase some snacks.

Oct. 9 – Barn Party at the home of Pam Terrill and Steve Scheckel from 4:00-6:00 pm, with a maximum of 65 RSVPs. Following a meeting with Pam on August 11, planning is underway. There will be no formal program, but may have background music, not a performance, during the event. Sandwiches and salads will be catered, the BOD will provide desserts, and Pam and UIRA will provide beverages. Volunteers will be needed on Thursday; Oct.8 from 11 am-1 pm to help with set up and on Oct 9 to help direct people where to park.

Oct. 16 - Insurance program with Rebecca Olson and Kevin Ward. UCC 2520D, probably 12:30-1:30 pm, preceded by a light lunch.

Nov.9-possible program –books for grown-ups, maybe focus on books by UI authors/Iowa authors. Lois will reach out to Prairie Lights Bookstore.

Nov.19- "Where Healing Meets the Herd: Human-Horse Interactions in Mental Health Care", UCC 2520D Speaker is Prof. Katy Schroeder, a faculty member in the Department of Counselor Education and co-director of the Human-Animal Interactions for Wellbeing Collaborative. (Time and other details to be determined.)

Dec. 8 - 12:30-1:30 pm, UCC 2520D - President Wilson's state-of-the-university talk, preceded by a light lunch. Rachel Stewart to introduce Pres. Wilson.

Upcoming topics: suggestions for Spring programming and whether or not UIRA wants to sponsor a fundraiser this year, like the one at Tavern Blue last February. Please share thoughts with Lois or another committee member.

Special Interest Group (SIG) Explorer's –no report

Website Update Committee- Rachel Stewart (Chair)-Rachel will include information in the Gray Hawk about needing a volunteer to lead this committee. In addition she will include information about

openings on various committees. Cindy Seyfer suggested that UIRA could solicit volunteers by sending an email to sustaining and complimentary members with details about the need for someone to chair this committee as well as create a social media presence and the type of skillset that is needed.

Old Business:

Barn Party-Friday, October 9, 2026-see Program Planning Committee.

UI Policy Manual Changes-done and published on UI site.

Revised Board Member Orientation/Operations Manual-It has been distributed. However, Lois Cox indicated that the by-laws still need to be compared with the manual.

Volunteering committee-There is interest in forming this committee. Suggestions included linking to different websites that already have information; providing two separate areas of information: one for UI offices/departments and another for community volunteering. The United Way website maintains a list of places that need volunteers.

New Business:

Homecoming parade-Discussed if UIRA is interested in participating in the parade on Friday, October 30. Rachel Stewart will obtain information on the entry application and the submission deadline.

Emeritus Faculty Council (EFC),Funded Retirement & Insurance Committee (FRIC), Presidential Committee on Athletics (PCA) liaisons: for the EFC liaison Rachel Stewart asked if John Allen wants to continue and he agreed to do it for another year. Rachel will contact Nancy Langguth to ask if she will continue as the co-liaison with John. Teresa Mangum will consider doing this for the 2027-28 year.

FRIC: Mike Barron has agreed to continue his liaison role. Nancy Davin will be his back-up.

PCA-Rachel Stewart will reach out to Ellie Herman and Gail Wadley to ask if they are still interested in being the co-liaisons.

Liaisons to UI Staff Council-Rachel Stewart will follow up on this. Suggestions for other committees to consider having UIRA liaisons are Parking and the Art Museum.

Adjourn: On a motion from Rachel Stewart, seconded by Diana Lundell, Rachel adjourned the meeting at 2:25 pm.