

## UIRA Board of Directors Meeting

January 9, 2018

**Attending:** Sue Otto, Michael Barron, Kris Canfield, Richard Saunders, Charles Dayton, Benny Hawkins, Linda Muston (electronically), Lois Lembke, Carolyn Wanat, Dean Borg

**Call to Order –President, Michael Barron**

### Reports from Officers

**Secretary – Diane Martin** (Sue Otto substituting)

Mike explained that the December minutes had undergone minor corrections before being sent to the Board. Lois moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected; Kris seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer – Kris Canfield**

Kris reported that \$95 had been received in membership dues.

The reserve fund figures reported were:

\$9,105.63 Vanguard GNMA 2.20%  
\$3,155.14 Vanguard Short-term Investment  
\$12,260.77 Total Reserve Funds

At Benny's request, Kris clarified that member recruitment costs included the copying costs for the color brochure that's handed out at university retirement events. Dean asked about the *Gray Hawk* expenses and Kris explained that these expenses include copying and mailing the print copies of the newsletter to folks who don't receive it electronically. The figure was higher for December because Linda bought envelopes and paid for postage in advance for the spring months that she'll be gone.

Before the next Board meeting, Sue will have convened the Budget Committee to work on the 2018-19 budget. Joe Joynt, Dick Stevenson and Doug True will be invited to join Kris and Sue on the Committee.

We are entering a period of soft budget, since we will not know for sure about income until membership renewals are processed in May and June.

Benny moved that the report be approved; Richard seconded. The financial report was approved unanimously.

Kris said that she had brought the checks reimbursing us for parking at the Levitt Center.

**President-Elect – Sue Otto**

On Monday, January 8 Professor Alec Scranton, Dean of the College of Engineering and UI Foundation Distinguished Professor of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, gave an excellent introduction to the College of Engineering and talked briefly about the

new Engineering Annex and how it reflects the College's educational and research visions. Following his presentation, Professor Nicole Grosland, College of Engineering Distinguished Professor and Departmental Executive Officer of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, gave an overview of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, detailing information about faculty, staff and students and their research. Professor Grosland spotlighted Marissa Mueller, a Canadian freshman biomedical engineering student and track and field athlete, who spoke briefly to the group about why she came to Iowa and her experience of the university during her first semester. Dean Scranton and Professor Grosland led the tour of the new Engineering Annex. There were 62 people in attendance.

Upcoming events are as follows:

**Sunday, February 4: Women's Basketball game** (Iowa vs Minnesota) (a few tickets are still available for \$5 tickets). Sue will send out a reminder to the list.

**Thursday February 22** (2:00 pm in the Schwab Auditorium, Coralville Public Library): **Dr. Peter Damiano**, Director of the UI Public Policy Center and the Center's Health Policy Research Program, will present ***The Current State of Health Care Reform in the US.***

**Wednesday, March 14** (2:00 pm in the Schwab Auditorium, Coralville Public Library): **Dr. Thomas Schulein** will present ***The Changing Face of the Pentacrest***, tracing the history of Pentacrest from 1840 to the present.

**Thursday, April 5: Annual UIRA luncheon and business meeting at the Raddison**

**Wednesday, June 6: Picnic at Terry Trueblood**

Sue plans to schedule a tour of the National Advanced Driving Simulator with Dan McGehee for May. Chuck suggested that a presentation by Rod Lehnertz on the recovery from the flood of 2008 would be a good topic for a UIRA program. Linda remarked on the popularity of the Cedar River Crossings Tour last year and suggested that might be worth repeating. Given the response by our members, the Flu Vaccination Clinic will be repeated next year as well.

#### **Past-President – Nancy Hauserman**

No report. Nancy was unable to attend the meeting.

#### **Reports from Committees**

#### **Newsletter – Linda Muston**

The deadline for the February *Gray Hawk* is January 21. Linda requested that she be sent lists of committee members for the following committees: Budget Committee,

Nominating Committee, Awards Committee, Program Committee, and Membership Committee.

Linda asked whether the January 31 deadline for submissions to the Travel Photo Contest was going to be extended. Mike said he would follow up with John about this.

Linda reported that she had updated her job description as Gray Hawk Editor in anticipation of her stepping down this year. While the Nominating Committee may consider possible candidates, Mike will convene an ad hoc committee consisting of Dick Johns, Ken Starck, Dean Borg, Linda Muston, and Sue Otto to find the new Editor.

Mike reported that Nancy had sent an email suggesting that we include general current university statistics, a feature of OSU's retirees association newsletter. These statistics include enrollments across colleges and degrees, tuition, freshman student information, including ACT scores and demographics, and undergraduate distribution by major. She thought that this kind of information would provide retirees a continuing connection with students and closeness to University

### **Membership – Lois Lembke**

UIRA membership is currently at 648, which represents 499 households. Twelve new members were listed in the January *Gray Hawk* and there are currently 5 for the February *Gray Hawk*. Lois sends out welcome emails to new members with a copy of the *Gray Hawk* attached, but there was one new member whose contact information as listed on the membership form didn't work. One Board member who knows this person will follow up with the person's former department to verify contact information.

The Board discussed ways to recruit new members. In addition to the word-of-mouth approach to attracting new members, there was some discussion about how we might get publicity in the local newspapers and to new retirees. For example, we might ask to have an article about our annual meeting and/or a press release about our award winners and scholarship winner. Dean will follow up on possible press releases. We also discussed the possibility of requesting a couple of minutes during the annual retirement dinner to talk about the benefits of belonging to our organization and the fact that the first year is free. Also, UIRA forms/information could be distributed on the tables. Richard will work with the Benefits Office to see about arranging this.

We are still hoping to negotiate with HR to get email addresses for new retirees. We might explore the possibility that new retirees would automatically become members for the first year. So, instead of having to opt in, they would have to opt out if they didn't want to be members.

### **Funded Retirement and Insurance Committee (FRIC) – Richard Saunders**

FRIC does not meet when school is not in session, so there was nothing to report.

## **Old Business**

### **Endowed Scholarship – Mike Barron**

Michael confirmed that we are on track to again offer a \$1,000 scholarship.

### **HR Relationship update on name availability – Doug True**

Because Doug was unable to attend this Board meeting, the report is delayed.

### **Annual Report Reminder – Michael Barron**

Written reports will be due in March from the President, President-elect, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Nominating Committee Chair and Gray Hawk Editor.

### **UIRA Awards – Pam Willard**

Mike said that Pam had reported that no viable nominations have been received. (One excellent nominee turned out not to be a member of UIRA and was reluctant to join just to get the award.) So, they are still working on identifying potential recipients.

### **Nominating Committee – Penny Hall**

Mike reported that the Committee will meet this Friday in Meeting Room B at the Coralville Public Library to consider nominations for officers and directors. Richard Saunders, who is completing the last two years of Rick Borchardt's term has agreed to serve for another term. There is apparently still one slot to fill.

### **Budget Committee**

A Budget Committee, chaired by Sue, will be formed before the next Board meeting.

**Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 2:05. Next meeting – February 13, 2018**