

UIRA Board of Directors Meeting

September 8, 2020

Attending: Emil Rinderspacher, Sam Cochran, Bennie Hawkins, Lois Lembke, Chuck Dayton, Richard Saunders, Dave Fitzgerald, David Hamilton, Ed Dove, Pat Mason-Browne, Diana Harris.
Past board member: Kris Canfield.
EFC Reps: Stephen Vlastos, Deb Cobb
Not attending: Billie Townsend

Call to Order -- Sam Cochran, President

To begin the meeting, Sam asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Reports from Officers:

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 9, 2020 meeting were approved as corrected: under Treasurer's report, the second paragraph should read, "Many UIRA members renew their memberships in May, June, or July,"

Ed moved to approve; Dave F. seconded. The motion approved.

Treasurer – David Fitzgerald; Kris Canfield

The final income and expense report for 2019-20 was sent with meeting materials and also has been posted to the website. David F. and Kris are meeting at Hills Bank this week to complete the necessary paperwork for David to become the UIRA account signatory. Chuck deposits the membership checks and usually gives deposit slips to the treasurer at our in-person board meetings. He will send the slips collected to date to David.

Past President – Emil Rinderspacher

Emil reported that as past president he will be updating the operations manual this fall.

President – Sam Cochran

Sam reported that he held an orientation meeting with past and new officers via Zoom. He's been attending the program committee meetings as an ex officio member. He reports that HR will record a benefits program and make it available to us. He's had a conversation with Sonatina Fernandes in University HR about getting email addresses of new UIRA retirees for membership recruitment purposes. He's waiting to hear back from that office.

Sam presented a budget for the year based on projected expenses which are much less than previous years because we are not holding in-person events. Lois moved to approve the budget. Chuck seconded and motion was approved.

Reports from Committees

Gray Hawk – Diana Harris

Diana reports that 14 individuals still get paper copies of the Gray Hawk. For future reference, she needs copy for the Gray Hawk by about the 20th of the month for the next month's issue.

Membership – Lois Lembke

We currently have 643 members representing 506 households. We had 24 new members for the September Gray Hawk. Currently 146 of the 399 members receiving renewal reminders have not responded. Forty of them are new members. Reminder emails were sent to the 146 members. Seven members promptly responded that their renewals would be sent shortly. Four members responded that they would not be rejoining; they have been removed from the listserve.

All emails are in both Neon and Excel and the listserve is up to date.

Evalyn Van Allen-Shalash had been the contact in the Office of the Provost. She has retired and has become a regular UIRA member. Deb Millsap is the new OP contact.

Program – Emil Rinderspacher

Emil explained that Phil Klein is working with ITS to get the recording of Connie Mutel's program back online. He also explained that Bruce Teague's program was not recorded but they plan to record future programs in the cloud and post program links to the UIRA website.

Upcoming programs include Kristin Morrow, Johnson County Conservation naturalist, on September 15 at 10 am; Lauren Lessing, director of the UI Stanley Museum of Art, on October 16 at 10 am; and Bruce Harreld, UI President, on December 3 at 2 pm. In addition, we will be scheduling Liz Tovar, interim associate vice president for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, for either late September or late October. We will have a UI Benefits program recorded to share in November.

The next program committee meeting is September 22.

Funded Retirement and Insurance Committee (FRIC) – Richard Saunders

Richard reported health insurance rates for UI retirees will increase 9% for next year but the University's contribution will remain the same. The Dental plan discussion will take place at this week's FRIC meeting.

Old Business

Sam wanted the minutes to show that the board has approved by email vote the appointments of Diana Harris as Gray Hawk editor and Phil Klein as webmaster for the upcoming year.

Neon: Sam and Emil gave a brief overview of the Neon project and where we stood with implementation when the pandemic hit and the project came to a halt. Lois reported that the membership module is up and running including email communication. Sam mentioned that the implementation had been divided into 4 modules: membership; communication; events; and member web portal. Kay Barron and Lois worked to get the membership module operational. The member web portal was dependent on a new UIRA website which Diana and Emil were working on with University ITS when work stopped in March with the pandemic. Sam will call a meeting with Lois, Kay and Emil to assess where we are and discuss next steps.

We lamented the fact that we probably will continue to meet virtually until at least next summer.

Adjourn

Ed moved to adjourn and David F. seconded. The meeting was adjourned.