

UIRA Board of Directors Meeting

December 8, 2020

Attending: Sam Cochran, Chuck Dayton, Ed Dove, Dave Fitzgerald, David Hamilton, Diana Harris, Lois Lembke, Pat Mason-Browne, Emil Rinderspacher, Richard Saunders, Billie Townsend

Call to Order – Sam Cochran, President

Sam welcomed those attending today's meeting.

Reports from Officers

Approval of Minutes

David moved, Lois seconded, to approve the November 10 minutes. The motion was approved.

Treasurer – Dave Fitzgerald

Income for November includes \$475 in dues, with expenditures of \$340.69 (\$15.99 for the newsletter; \$324.70 for member recruitment). Checking balance: \$11,486.03. Dave will contact Sam and David, as co-signers, to process paperwork for access to the Vanguard account. Ed moved, and Diana seconded, to approve the report. The motion was approved.

Past President – Emil Rinderspacher

Emil is continuing to update the Operations Manual, with a projected draft to officers (and Sue Otto) for January.

President – Sam Cochran

Sam, David, and Emil have prepared a Spring 2021 UIRA Timeline. Sam is completing recruitment for the nominating and awards committees. Miriam Gilbert was very positive about UIRA's listserv connection with the Emeritus Faculty Council (EFC). Diana confirmed receipt of EFC lecture information.

Reports from Committees

Membership – Lois Lembke

There are currently 590 members in 465 households, with a good response from recent retirees. Again, UI Tech Services helped with resending rejected emails. Thirty-three new members were listed in the December Gray Hawk. Chuck received 5 new memberships yesterday.

Program – Emil Rinderspacher

There have been two recent Zoom events. More than 90 retirees attended the November benefits meeting with presentations by Gary Schwartz (a very well informed SHIIP presenter though his work with clients), Sonatina Fernandes (UI HR), and Lora Felger (Health Alliance). The order of the presentations was particularly effective. Fifty-seven persons attended the December 3 meeting with UI president Bruce Harreld, attendance comparable to the 2019 in-person event.

The program committee met on December 1. Upcoming events include: a January 13 session on Covid-19 and vaccines with Dr. Patricia Winokur, Executive Dean of the UI Carver College of Medicine and principal investigator of the UI's portion of the clinical trials of the Covi-19 vaccine by Pfizer and BioNTech; a possible February Conservation Commission presentation on birding (suggested by Senior College participants); a late January or early February program with Sarah Hansen, VP Student Life, on the UI during Covid. A Covid presentation with Dr. Jorge Salinas, UIHC Epidemiologist, is projected for later. The committee is also brainstorming a wellness (physical and mental) program.

Funded Retirement and Insurance Committee (FRIC) – Richard Saunders

FRIC, a faculty/staff committee, reports through UI HR. It handles programs and benefits for all employee groups (except unionized). FRIC communicates with its counterparts at UNI and ISU. The just-concluded benefits open enrollment period saw a number of both current and retired employees opting to switch to UI Select.

This summer the Regents will begin discussion of insurance plans, either as a pool for all their institutions or as individual institutional plans. Smaller institutions likely benefit (reduced premiums) from combined programs. Retiree groups vary by institution.

UIHC has acquired six freezers to store upcoming vaccines.

Old Business

Sam, Emil, and David reviewed a Spring 2021 UIRA Timeline, a flexible working template. Of note is the shift of annual reports from April to July, in keeping with the June 30 year-end date. The Board gave consensus approval to the Timeline.

January

- January 31 – photo contest deadline

February

- February 15 – deadline for awards nominations

March

- Photo contest winners chosen by March 1
- Scholarship winners names obtained in February or March

April

- Photo contest winners announced in April Gray Hawk
- Nominating committee report to board by April 1
- Board vote on nominating committee slate at April board meeting, April 13

May

- Award winners announced in May Gray Hawk
- Board election held in May via electronic ballots

June

- Biographies of elected board members published in June Gray Hawk
- Virtual membership meeting
- Election results announced at membership meeting

July

- Annual reports distributed to members, posted on website

New Business

With a motion from Lois, seconded by Billie, the Board approved composition of the nominating committee: Michael Barron (chair); Emil (Board representative); and Larry Wilson, Sue Otto, and Alice Atkinson as recurring members. Sam will follow up with the committee charge after the New Year.

On a motion from David, seconded by Ed, the Board approved the following members of the awards committee: Lucille Heitman (who will continue her 3-year term), Billie, Rick Walton, and one new member (for continuity). Billie will serve as this year's chair.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.