

**The Association of The University of Akron Retirees (AUAR)**  
**Executive Board Meeting January 23, 2025Minutes**  
**Held in person and Zoom**

**I. Call to order.** The Board meeting was called to order on January 23, 2025byPresident Harvey Sterns at 10:00 am.

**II. Welcome & Announcements:**

Members attending: Harvey Sterns, Mary Verstraete, Linda Sugarman, Mel Vye, Martha Vye, Tom Vukovich, Dan Sheffer (Zoom), Kathy DuBose (Zoom), Richard Steiner (Zoom), Ali Hajjafar (Zoom), Bob Huff, Tom Nichols (Zoom), George Haritos (Zoom), Richard Milford, Doug Hausknecht

Absent: Diane Vukovich, Carl Leiberman, Robert Gandee, Rita Klein

Dan Sheffer announced that Bob Gandee has decided to step away from the AUAR Board and from OCHER. Harvey thanked Bob for his many, many years of service to AUAR and OCHER

**III.Approval of Minutes:**The Minutes from December were presented for approval. They were approved without correction.

**IV. Treasurer's Report:**

**November 2024**

UA Account income: Membership dues	\$177.00
Luncheon proceeds	\$452.00
Raffle	\$ 65.00

UA Account expenses: Aramark Catering	\$423.13
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	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial Balance	\$13535.43	\$316.68	\$13852.11
Income	\$694.00	\$0.00	\$694.00
Expenses	\$423.13	\$0.00	\$423.13
Final Balance	\$13806.30	\$316.68	\$14122.98*
Final Balance			
Nov. 2023	\$13248.82	\$160.38	\$13409.20*

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**December 2024**

UA Account income:	Membership dues	\$ 90.00
	Luncheon proceeds	\$797.00
	Raffle	\$ 86.00
UA Account expenses:	Aramark Catering	
	Room Charge 11/20	\$ 75.00
	Luncheon 12/18	\$848.86
Petty Cash expense:	T. Vukovich	
	Nov. Soup & Chili	\$ 12.50

	UA Account	Petty Cash	Totals
Initial Balance	\$13806.30	\$316.68	\$14122.98
Income	\$973.00	\$0.00	\$973.00
Expenses	\$923.86	\$12.50	\$936.36
Final Balance	\$13855.44	\$304.18	\$14159.62*
Final Balance			
Dec. 2024	\$11246.65	\$238.68	\$11485.23*

\* These include dues payments for future years.

**V. Corresponding Secretary.** Linda Sugarman reported that she sent:

Condolence card to the family of Barbara Banks.  
 Get Well cards to Jay Hershey, Martha Vye and Rita Klein.

**VI. Committee Reports.**

**A. Programs:** Tom Vukovich reported that 60 people attended the December Luncheon with President RJ Nemer.

The Spring schedule is set and Mel Vye will be our next speaker. Tom & Diane will take care of the flyer, Harvey will introduce him and Martha will do the write up for the newsletter. Mary will handle the finances for the Lunch.

On March 19th Dr. David Licate, Chair of the Criminal Justice Studies Department, will speak about cybersecurity and on April 16<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Douglas Hausknecht will be the speaker.

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Tom and Diane are looking into a road trip and are considering Sharon, PA.

Harvey thanked Tom and Diane for their continued work setting up the excellent programming for the AUAR Luncheons.

An early May meeting may feature the history of Akron as it pertains to older citizens in support of the Akron Bicentennial. One suggestion is to have people create their autobiographies.

**B. Membership:** Mel Vye reported we have 145 paid members, including 53 Life members.

**C. Political Action:** Dan Sheffer reported that although House Bill 83 never made it out of the House in 2024, it is back as Senate Bill 1 to be considered this year. This Bill will prohibit any strikes, will mandate what can and cannot be taught in classrooms and will require post-tenure review. The next OCHER meeting is in March.

Dan handed out a letter from OCHER about what it expects from STRS. A similar letter has been sent to OPERS, OEA, OFT, ORTA, all members of the Ohio House and Senate, and other organizations. Dan asked the Board if he should forward this to all STRS members and the Board agreed.

**D.** .

**E. Benefits:** Linda Sugarman deferred her report to Harvey who has information listed in New Business on the Agenda.

**F. Faculty Senate:** The full report from the December 5, 2024 meeting is attached, as well as Doug's summary notes. Doug mentioned that the new Workday system cannot understand the current format for midterm grades.

**G. University & Community Service/Website:** Dan Sheffer reported that he will add the spring speakers and dates to the website.

**H. Scholarship:**Interim Chair Rita Klein had no report.

**I. Newsletter:** Martha reported that she submitted the report to Tony and the deadline for submissions is February 1, 2025. She also noted that there is no Board photograph for this year's Board.

**VII. Old Business.**

Ad Hoc Reference Committee on By-Laws: Harvey Sterns, Dan Sheffer, Rita Klein, Linda Sugarman and Carl Leiberman.

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Discussion of possible new activities such as participation of members in Age Friendly Akron/Summit County, Age Friendly University Initiatives and other suggestions.

**VIII. New Business.**

Harvey reported on the meeting with the Provost regarding the repeat process for the 60+ Program that has experience issues in the Art Department. The issue with the Ceramics course has been resolved as the students agreed to take another course. Course fees continue to be covered for retirees.

**IX. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

**Respectfully Submitted: Mary C. Verstraete, Recording Secretary**

**The next meeting of the 2023-2024 year is scheduled for February 27, 2025 at 10:00 am in the Infocision Board Room.**

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**NOTES FROM FACULTY SENATE 5 DECEMBER 2024**

- Senate and union liaisons are working on plans for retrenchment. Discussions around faculty positions, programs etc. are ongoing.
- There are also questions about ongoing Program Review being discussed by Executive Committee.
- Discussion with Provost focused on both retrenchment and strategic planning. These are not sequential decisions but interactive at this time. Goal is efficiency.
- Extended discussion ensued around the reporting of interim grades (100 and 200 level classes required at 1/3 of term; other reporting optional). Workday system is complicating the reporting and essentially requiring a grade input rather than the previous S/U format. Committee will continue to discuss.

**Side note:** Ask Harvey to discuss the issue raised about course fees and plans for courses in 60+ program as well as retiree benefits.