UW-Green Bay Retiree Association
Board of Directors’ Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Attendance
Jim Wiersma (president), Barbara McClure-Lukens, Mike Murphy, Sally Mancoske, Marge Weidner, Betty Baer, Mark Brunette, Ken Fleurant, George O’Hearn, Chuck Rhyner, Lee Schwartz
Excused: Pat Przybelski

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

With one typographical correction, the minutes of the November 29, 2010, meeting were approved.

Discussion of Retiree Benefits:

Discussion included current and potential benefits for retirees, including library privileges, parking, a campus ID card, and reduced rates at the Weidner Center, Phoenix Bookstore and Shorewood golf course. Mark Brunette reported that the Shorewood Club has qualified retired employees for the Faculty/Staff rate on season memberships this year, which will be a better rate than the senior rate. They are also willing to offer us a reduction on a retiree golf outing. The Sports center offers retirees the senior rate and Mark has asked them to consider offering us the better rate for faculty/staff. He has also asked the Bookstore for a retiree reduction in line with the 10% offered alumni.

When retired employees are issued new ID cards, they are listed as “guests.” The Board will pursue the possibility of including “retired faculty/staff” on the card in the future. Other items included the need to be sensitive to tight campus budgets as we seek retiree benefits. Benefits that retirees continue to bring to the campus also need to be factored into the equation.

Oral History

Betty Baer reported that this year, oral history constituted the entire effort of the Service Committee. The project is scheduled to end this spring, and the Board will need to decide whether it should continue. A new Service Committee chair and sources of funding will need to be identified. Following a considerable effort creating interview procedures, the history committee is currently conducting interviews and creating media and written documents to add to University archives. Depending on the Board’s ability to raise the $500 it would require, the oral history committee is planning to produce an hour-long video on the history of the academic plan that the University might want to use for new faculty/staff orientations.

Following the strong start of the oral history project, the Board and/or the new Service Committee will need to expand the conversation on ways the RA might be of service to the
University. Members of the Board offered hearty congratulations for the work of the committee chair and committee members. A recently circulated summary of one interview elicited strong words of praise from the Board and the hope that ways can be found to provide the funding necessary to continue the valuable efforts of the history project.

Retiree Listserv

Ken Fleurant reported that the list has grown to over 125 addresses. Following recent discussions with campus officials, the Association (rather than IT) will continue to manage the list, but the Board should ensure that at least two people are trained to manage it.

Retirees’ Scholarship Fund

Shannon Badura has been appointed to oversee the scholarship fund. Mark explained how the process works for letting students know of the availability of the scholarship (about $400 this year). He suggested posting the announcement through the Financial Aid office (rather than directly from the RA) to attract students’ attention. The Board will want to also identify people on campus who might encourage strong applicants.

Further Business

The dinner committee asks the Board to send a hold-the-date email for the evening of October 18, 2011. The Phoenix rooms fill rapidly, so the dinner committee has reserved them for that date. Jim Wiersma has a line on an after dinner musical program that he will pursue.

The Board considered the possibility of separating the RA’s annual business meeting from the dinner to allow for lengthier discussion of general business. Suggestions for timing: before the spring grill-out or following fall convocation.

A tri-fold pamphlet for the Retiree Association needs to be developed soon, pending further resolution of the retiree benefits issues discussed earlier.

With the start of renovations to Wood Hall, Association belongings from WH 318 have been placed in Advancement storage (with larger furniture pieces moved across the hall). Until a determination is made on our new location, our office will be ES 323L. Board meetings will need to be held in a larger room, so Mark has scheduled the next several for the Lambeau Cottage.

Visit of Bev Carmichael

The Assistant Chancellor for Advancement joined the Board and offered the following campus updates:

- The Chancellor joins her in expressing appreciation for our efforts.
• UW—Green Bay will now organize and maintain its own foundation, which was formerly run on our behalf by Madison. This will afford our campus greater flexibility in financial management and permit more timely reports. Madison will continue to invest our dollars, but a fiduciary board will be created within the Chancellor’s Board of Trustees.
• A task force has been set up to study marketing and branding. There is agreement that this needs to be done in spite of the financial situation facing the state. She pointed out that many don’t realize that less than 25% of the annual campus budget comes from the State.
• Efforts are underway to raise more scholarship dollars to keep better pace with the need.

With thanks to Assistant Chancellor Carmichael, the next meeting was called for Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 9:00 am in the Lambeau Cottage.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Ken Fleurant, secretary pro tempore