

UW-GREEN BAY RETIREE ASSOCIATION MINUTES  
18<sup>TH</sup> Annual Dinner Meeting, October 4, 2017  
Phoenix Room of the University Union

**Report by the Retiree Association President**

President Pat Przybelski welcomed about 60 banquet attendees to the annual event. She thanked Jim Wiersma for his six-year service as President and shared the following information as part of her summary of 2016-17.

- **Events** – A “retiree night at the theatre” gathering last November saw about 25 retirees and guests attend together the UWGB production of Professor Brian Sutton's original comedy “Searching for Romeo” in the University Theatre; About 15 retirees and guests participated in the spring Arboretum Walk in early May; The 2017 Retiree Association Scholarship Golf Outing had 40 registrants for a successful event in August.
- **Activities and Service** – The Retiree Association revamped its web pages in 2017, a move assisted by CIT's web-development and training personnel and necessitated by the University's migration to the new Kentico content-management system... ease of updating (especially photo galleries) and more timely content are among the improvements. Also in fall 2017, about 10 members of the Retiree Association volunteered their time to assist University Archives with a vintage-photo ID project. In an annual tradition, several members assisted Shorewood Golf Course with summer flower planting and course beautification efforts. Association leadership helped promote volunteer opportunities associated with the Library archival project and the upcoming Phuture Phoenix Day(s) on campus. The Association notified members of the upcoming health-insurance open enrollment window and the importance of attending the October benefit/wellness fair coordinated by HR in order to learn more about major coverage changes in store for 2018. The Association updated its list of benefits (perks) extended to members through use of the official Retiree ID card available at the University Ticketing Office.
- **Update on Oral History Project** – Project coordinator Jane Rank was unavailable to report, but President Przybelski said the Oral History Committee continues to interview subjects. Roger Vanderperren is providing media/tech support. With a goal of a searchable and accessible database, the Library Archives staff is making progress in its work to bring the interviews online in the near future. Pat thanked the archives staff and also Professor Cliff Abbott, who has assisted in selecting and testing the software.

**Report by the Retiree Association Treasurer**

Treasurer Frank Madzarevic shared a brief report. He said the current balance of the Retiree Association's day-to-day “S&E” account is \$4,000. Following the golf outing, which netted about \$750, the current value of the scholarship endowment is \$28,700. The Association is

seeking to build the endowment in order to add either a second scholarship award each year or increase the current single award, which is now \$1,000. Frank encouraged those attending the banquet to consider a fully tax-deductible, year-end gift to the scholarship fund.

### **Election of New Board Members**

Retirees completing their terms on the Retiree Association Board of Directors are Virginia Dell, Mike Kraft, Roger Vanderperren and Ron Starkey.

Nominated for election to two-year terms were Dave Kieper, Carol Emmons, Curt Heuer and Kathy Pletcher. Board member Kraft moved, and Dan Spielmann seconded, their nominations, and those in attendance concurred with all "ayes." The first meeting for the new board members will be in November.

### **Remarks by Guest Speaker Matt Dornbush**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Director of Graduate Studies Mathew Dornbush presented a 45-minute, slide-illustrated talk about challenges and opportunities for higher education nationally, and at UW-Green Bay.

He described how stagnant funding, the struggles of recent grads to find good-paying jobs since the Great Recession of 2009, and increasing student debt have been problematic. He shared the re-stated UWGB strategic vision of being an "urban-serving university" with the following characteristics:

- Growing enrollment to at least 10,000 headcount
- Continue to serve first-generation students, often diverse and/or placebound
- Continue to emphasize student success, as a moral responsibility of the institution
- Placing emphasis for future growth on key sectors including STEM, healthcare, business, arts and entertainment, graduate programs and continuing education
- Recommit to driving innovation and economic development in the community and beyond
- Prioritize R&D in areas including engineering, cybersecurity and biomedical

Dornbush said UWGB has positive momentum, with solid enrollment for fall 2017. Graduate enrollment has nearly doubled since fall 2013. He mentioned the reorganization to the four-dean model, strengthened partnerships with K-12 and the technical colleges, progress in improving retention, and moves to enhance diversity and student success as additional positives.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Chris Sampson, recording secretary