RETIREE ASSOCIATION MINUTES

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

9:30 A.M, ES 307

Attendance: Jim Wiersma (president), Ginny Dell, Tracy Heaser, Michael Kraft, Frank Madzarevic, Pat Przybelski, Jane Rank, Chuck Rhyner, Roger Vanderperren

Excused: Randy Christopherson

A motion was made, and seconded, to add two items to our agenda: 1) compose a statement of support for the University Faculty resolution to be taken up at Senate February 11, and 2) compose a letter to the editor of the Press Gazette in support of funding.

Minutes of the November 11, 2014, meeting were approved with one minor change.

Tracy Announcements

**Budge**t: Tracy said that Chancellor Miller shared in remarks on the state budget in an informational “town hall” session Monday, February 9, in the Phoenix Rooms of the University Union. UW-Green Bay will need to plug an unprecedented $4 million revenue hole for the fiscal year starting July 1 if UW System budget cuts proposed in Gov. Scott Walker’s state spending plan are not amended. The Chancellor touched upon the UW System autonomy proposal, but focused on the budget. Over the course of the nearly two-hour forum, he fielded more than 40 questions from employees and students.

The Chancellor’s planning timetable has three phases: Phase I: soliciting innovative ideas from across campus to respond to the budget challenge; Phase II: meeting of the Regents early March-April 9, as the UW System and its campuses fine-tune their strategies and incorporate any new information into their planning; and Phase III: the period from the April Board meeting through the end of June, with Legislative action on the 2015-17 budget expected during that time.

 The Chancellor pledged regular briefings and consultation sessions with the University’s four statutory governance groups, representing faculty, academic staff, university staff and students.

 The Board of Trustees is drafting a letter to address the cuts and will lobby to get people on the side of the University. The Chancellor will draft a letter to the Alumni Association and to the campus community.

Meeting with the Chancellor: The Chancellor would like to meet with the Board on April 14 at 7:30 a.m. in ES307. He would like to discuss the budget, have an informal Q&A session, and discuss what the Board can do for the University. Tracy will arrange for coffee and muffins.

**50th Anniversary:** The Planning committee met with the Chancellor and they had to rethink and refocus. They are now seeking private funds for the anniversary, with fund raising going out to the community. The “360 Degree” branding is being phased out and will now be titled “The Powers of the Phoenix: Transformation, Innovation, Place.”

Calendar of Events

Arboretum Walk. The Board said they would like to hold another walk this year, but go to the northwest area of the campus by the herpetarium. Jim will ask Paul Sager if he would like to lead our group again.

Golf Outing. We have chosen August 13, 2015, for our 5th annual Shorewood golf outing. Jim will check on the date availability.

Annual Banquet. Pat talked with Andy Wenig, Union Events Coordinator, and was given several dates that are available for us to hold our October banquet. The Board chose October 1, 2015.

National History Day in Northeastern Wisconsin. This event will be held at UW-Green Bay on March 7. It is an opportunity for students from grade 6-12 to create a history project and complete at local, regional, state and national levels. Volunteers are really needed to help throughout the day. Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a retiree to volunteer.

Informed Choice. We would like to invite Informed Choice to come to campus this year for a presentation. We would like to have our event coincide with the annual Benefits Fair, usually held the first Wednesday in October. Pat will confirm with Human Resources that the Benefits fair is going to be held October 7. Tracy will check on the availability of either the 1965 Room or the Alumni Room for this event.

Salon Program Series - Piano Concert: Discussion on hold for our April 7 meeting.

Corresponding with Members and Tri-fold Brochure

We need a letter to go out with our Retiree Association brochure, encouraging recent retirees to get an ID, request a retiree e-mail account, and subscribe to the LOG. The brochure is still in need of completion. We want to have all our perks from the ID card included in the brochure. We currently have pass point access, Kress Center gym membership, and Shorewood Golf Course membership rates extended to those with an ID card. We want to be able to include in the brochure the bookstore discount, free parking, internet use, and library privileges. Jane will talk with Paula Ganyard about adding library privileges; Randy will talk with Kelly Franz and Tom Kujawa about free parking; Frank will talk with Mike Barry in the bookstore about a 10% discount; and Frank will talk with either Barb Holsbach or Dave Kieper regarding using the University Wi-Fi while on campus.

Golf Course Enhancement

Last year Jim, Pat, and Ron Stieglitz planted flowers around the Shorewood Golf Course. The marigolds and impatiens were gorgeous around the 6th hole until the deer discovered the impatiens in late August and ate them all. Rick Warpinski has given us some money this year to plant perennials. Anyone interested in assisting should contact Jim. We will discuss planting flowers after our April 14 meeting.

Financial Summary

Nothing new to report.

New Business

Jim distributed a draft letter written by him and several retired faculty regarding Gov. Walker’s proposed budget cuts to the University System. The letter will be sent to the Green Bay Press-Gazette. The Board was in agreement that Jim sends the letter under his name as President of the Retiree Association. Jim will mail the letter tomorrow to the editor.

The Board reviewed a statement presented by Jim of support by the Retiree Association to the UW-Green Bay Faculty Resolution on the proposed UW System budget cuts to be presented at February 11 Faculty Senate. Minor changes were suggested to the statement. The motion was made and seconded to have Jim present the resolution at Faculty Senate.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. We will not have a meeting in March. We will meet with Chancellor Miller at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, in ES307. Our regular Board meeting will follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Przybelski, Secretary