

RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES
January 9, 2018
9:30 a.m., Vista Conference Room, MAC Hall

Attendance: Pat Przybelski (board VP who presided in president's absence), Chris Sampson, David Kieper, Curt Heuer, Carol Emmons

Excused absences: Judi Pietsch, Kathy Pletcher, Frank Madzarevic, President Dan Spielmann

Guests: Roger Vanderperren, Jacob Depas

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the October 4, 2017, annual banquet were approved.

Minutes of the November 14, 2017, meeting were approved with two typos corrected.

Monthly update from University liaison

Jacob Depas, development officer with University Advancement, began by asking board members if they had any questions or feedback for him. Chris Sampson said members of Brown County Civic Music, a community board he serves, were delighted to hear that the University and the new director of the Weidner Center are actively promoting more affordable rental rates for local non-profits. Pat Przybelski said she's heard questions about construction of new soccer/softball facilities near the Kress Center. Jacob reiterated that existing playing fields were badly outdated and well below NCAA and Horizon League standards, that the initiative is largely funded by private donors, and that the introduction of artificial turf creates many new opportunities for additional use. Jacob went on to touch upon other UWGB developments:

- 'Project Coastal,' the integration into UWGB of two-year centers at Marinette, Manitowoc and Sheboygan, is being led by Matt Dornbush and Cliff Ganyard of the Provost's Office. UWGB officials have been proactive in reassuring the satellite campuses and their communities that partnerships, economic development, and student opportunities could prosper. As an aside: The initial reluctance in Sheboygan, where some thought UW-Milwaukee a more logical university partner, has been addressed, and a comparison to the other "mergers" across the UW System reveals that UWGB is probably ahead of schedule in implementing the new structure.
- Academic developments include nursing, where there is progress toward a 1-2-1 bachelor's degree track in partnership with NWTC; development of a new type of MBA program that connects with local entrepreneurs; a decision to go slow on business program accreditation; the campus is seeking approval for expansion of engineering programs at UWGB; and there is growing consensus that arts and humanities programs should have a more dynamic and physical presence in downtown Green Bay.
- An announcement is expected as early as February regarding plans to construct a \$23 million STEM Innovation Center on campus land, funded by a county/state/university partnership. At that time, the nature and extent of private donations already pledged could be revealed, as well as a timetable and plans for additional fundraising.

Setting a date for 2018 Retiree Banquet

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to advance by a few days the date of the annual meeting and banquet. This would move it out of October and away from possible retiree travel involving fall color trips or early departures for Florida, Arizona, etc. Pat said she would confirm the likely availability of the Union's Phoenix Room for Thursday, Sept. 27, with Wednesday, Oct. 3 as the backup choice.

Updating of Retiree Association brochure

Chris shared draft content and asked board members for suggestions/additions, if any. It's not greatly different from the previous brochure and incorporates updated info now found on the website. He said he has asked University Communication to provide design services, and there's a chance we'd have new brochures back from the printer in time to have them available for the Krash the Kress alumni/retiree/all-campus event on February 16. He said he'd ask Ginny Dell to assist with final proofreading. Pat noted HR already has an updated letter to distribute to any new retirees in the interim.

Social events: February 16 basketball, April 15 choral/symphony

Chris shared an update on the February 16 "Krash the Kress" alumni reception/tailgate for the men's basketball game at the Kress. He said Kari Moody of Alumni Relations has agreed to extend the alumni board's special subsidized alumni rate of \$20 for ticket, t-shirt, tailgate meal and beverages to retirees who sign up in advance through the Retiree Board and Chris. Pat and Chris will promote the outing to retirees via listserv and emails. As for a second "outing" this spring, Chris said he is beginning to investigate the major choral concert set for Sunday, April 15, in which Prof. Meder's students will collaborate with the Civic Symphony to present Verdi's famous Requiem. He said he learned any significant ticket discount is unlikely, although maybe we can "dress things up" with some sort of retiree reception at the Weidner, and that he'd spend more time on planning once the February outing is over. Chris inquired of former art faculty members Emmons and Heuer if any Lawton Gallery openings or talks might lend themselves to a retiree arts outing in the future. They wondered if a targeted talk about or look at the permanent collection might be interesting. It was also suggested that another alternative might be to highlight the art program or Lawton at a future annual banquet, perhaps as a larger demonstration/update on the visual and performing arts at UWGB.

New business, miscellaneous: Laughlin passing, golf outing donations, next meeting

- A) Pat noted the passing of former Education faculty member Dr. Margaret Laughlin. A link to the obituary will be added to the retiree webpage, as is customary.
- B) It was mentioned that employees of the Phoenix Bookstore have been made aware that the University is apparently ready to join the ranks of other UW System universities that have outsourced their campus bookstores to private vendors. No formal announcement has been made. Pat observed that the Phoenix Bookstore has been a willing supporter of campus groups including the Retiree Association golf outing, generously donating items for fundraising raffles, prizes and giveaways. She suggested the Retiree Association advocate that the practice continue if new management becomes reality.
- C) The next meeting of the Retiree Board was set for Tuesday, April 17, at 9:30 a.m., again in the MAC Hall Vista Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted
Chris Sampson, recording secretary