

RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES

Nov. 13, 2018

9:30 a.m., MAC Hall Vista Room

Attendance: President Dan Spielmann, Pat Przybelski, Chris Sampson, Carol Emmons, Curt Heuer, David Kieper, Judi Pietsch, Kathy Pletcher
Absent: Frank Madzarevic Guests: Roger Vanderperren, Jacob Depas

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. Motion by Kathy, second by Dave, minutes were approved with all ayes and one correction: Date corrected to Oct. 18, 2018 at top of page.

Monthly update from University liaison

Jacob Depas, development officer with University Advancement, briefly reviewed recent major developments for the University.

- National search to fill Provost position is getting under way
- Search for permanent Business Dean will also be a national search
- Fall 2018 enrollment puts UWGB among System's best in otherwise challenging year, with headcount enrollment exceeding last year's by about 100 students
- For first time, enrollment totals from three satellite campuses (Marinette, Manitowoc, Sheboygan) were accounted for in UWGB numbers
- As many as five new Regent appointments are possible in coming months
- Good progress has been made on STEM building construction

Discussion of Retiree Association scholarship account and fundraising

Jacob joined Board Members in general discussion of the growing Retiree Scholarship fund and the goal of building the endowment to enable larger grants to more students. In less than a decade, there has already been significant growth: In 2011, the Retiree endowment supported one \$500 scholarship award; in 2018, the amount had risen to \$1,150. Leadership of the Association has agreed that a reasonable short-term goal would be to build the endowment from its current \$30-\$35,000 range to more than \$50,000. This would allow the Association to fund two scholarships annually, at or exceeding \$1,000 per scholarship, an amount that makes a bigger impact for student recipients.

Dan shared that he has been asked if the Association is considering some sort of coordinated campaign or fundraising appeal. Members agreed the idea has merit. Spring 2019 might be the soonest that an effective all-retiree appeal could be made. (The Advancement Office can assist with counsel and logistics.) In the meantime, a "soft ask" in the form of an end-of-year Retiree Association news summary will be delivered via email to those for whom we have current addresses. Along with sharing an overview of 2018 activities, the email will point out that contributions may always be made to the Scholarship Fund. Jacob and Pat have a head start on developing content for such a letter; Chris volunteered to finalize in time for a year-end mailing.

Election of Officers for 2019

President – Dan Spielmann was nominated by Carol, seconded by Judi
Vice President – Pat Przybelski was nominated by Chris, seconded by Carol
Secretary – Chris Sampson was nominated by Kathy, seconded by Carol
Treasurer – Frank Madzarevic was nominated by Dan, seconded by Dave

A unanimous ballot was cast in favor of the slate as presented.

Recap of Lawton Gallery 'Behind the Scenes' event

Carol reported that 11 people registered and 10 showed up for the late-afternoon, midweek event on Oct. 24 in the Lawton Gallery. Dan Spielmann, who attended, said it was an excellent program, participants seemed to greatly enjoy it, and as a first-time effort for the Retiree Association with regard to visual arts programming, it was a strong start. He thanked Carol for taking the lead in organizing, and it was noted that Lawton curator Emma Hitzman, a relatively recent graduate of the UWGB art program, did a great job in hosting the tour and program.

General discussion of Retiree Association mission, efforts to engage members

Following the report on the Lawton event, board members revisited the fall 2018 edition of the annual banquet. Attendance has been decent but static with few new faces among the guests. How do we engage more retirees across a range of activities? What is our basic mission? How best to reach out? What are priorities?

- First off, Curt suggested, the annual meeting is a nice event but "Banquet" is an offputting term. Sounds dull. Something only for insiders. Can we call it a "Dinner" from now on? Yes, it's agreed. It's now the Annual Dinner. Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 are two possible dates for fall 2019. Dan suggested the earlier date would be preferable; more people in town.
- Basically, the Retiree Association mission has been interpreted as extending financial support to student scholarships, supporting UW-Green Bay in a variety of ways, and organizing social events and opportunities to keep retirees connected to campus.
- Dan said the social component and scholarships are the two aspects that stand out to him as being logical, straight-forward priorities for the Association.
- Pat noted that the annual Golf Outing has built a following and continues to enjoy success. It's a good example of addressing both the fundraising and social-gathering aspects with one event.
- Maintaining an up-to-date email database is a primary concern. While most existing retirees have been grandfathered in, the UW System has required UWGB to discontinue the practice of automatically allowing new retirees to retain their uwgb.edu accounts. Moving forward, the Association must develop a systematic way to solicit post-retirement addresses.
- In the meantime, the Retiree ListServ remains a reliable way to reach at least part of our target audience. As an opt-in method, however, its reach is somewhat limited. Ken Fleurant continues to provide assistance in compiling retiree emails. Again, however, we're missing a sizeable number of retirees. Pat said she would share the most recent, updated list with Board members. Discussion to continue.
- It was suggested that, with regard to growing the Scholarship Fund, a special event might be worthwhile. One idea: Jane Rank and Cliff Abbott might be approached to reprise their "Salon Series" piano concert program.

Next meeting

With December a quiet month, the next meeting was set for two months out, at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, again in the Vista Conference Room in MAC Hall.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Chris Sampson, recording secretary