

RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES

Oct. 15, 2019

9:30 a.m., conference room, STEM Innovation Center on UWGB campus

Attendance: President Dan Spielmann, Pat Przybelski, Chris Sampson, Carol Emmons, Curt Heuer, Frank Madzarevic, Kathy Pletcher, Barbara McClure-Lukens
Guest: Jacob Depas

Tour of recently opened STEM Innovation Center

Jacob Depas, development officer with University Advancement, led board members on an approximately half-hour walking tour of the new Brown County/UWGB shared building. There was time for Q&A with various program directors and officials associated with the center including Dean John Katers.

Minutes of previous meeting

The business portion of the meeting followed the tour. Minutes of the August 2019 meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Kathy, seconded by Chris, and all ayes to approve as presented.

Election of Officers for one-year terms through October 2020

President – Dan Spielmann was nominated for another term

Vice President – Pat Przybelski was nominated for another term

Secretary – Chris Sampson was nominated for another term

Treasurer – Frank Madzarevic was nominated for another term

Curt moved to approve the ballot as presented, Carol seconded. All ayes.

Congratulations, re-elected Retiree Association Board of Directors officers!

Review of fall 2019 Annual Retiree Dinner; discussion of how to proceed

Dan and Pat shared highlights and observations about this year's dinner, held Wednesday night Sept. 25th in the Union's Phoenix Room. Pat said 67 people – retirees and their guests -- attended. Reviews were generally positive: Socializing was great as always; the illustrated talk by travel-and-art photographer Dan Moore of the UWGB communications staff was very well-received; and the meal was... adequate. (Not as good as previous year under the University's former food-services contract vendor. Onward and upward.)

Pat mentioned again how appreciative this academic year's Retiree Scholarship recipient, Ben Giles, has been for the \$1,300+ grant given him this year. She noted that the annual dinner is not primarily a fundraising event but it does generate additional funds for the scholarship endowment. This fall's dinner yielded about \$300 in "profit." In addition, with prompts for scholarship donations made in the dinner invitation, another \$1,000 in new contributions was received this fall.

Discussion followed regarding ways to update, improve and/or reposition this now traditional event. Among the suggestions and questions:

- General consensus is that retirees like to get in and out and home by a relatively early hour. The next dinner should start a half hour to a full hour earlier. There was agreement on a 4:30 p.m. social hour and a 5:30 p.m. dinner.
- Dan: Our dinner format draws well from earlier retirees, not recent retirees.
- Should we go back to having a UWGB administrator share a "state of the university" update, either as featured speaker or brief part of the program?
- Some sentiment that alumni dinner speakers the last 2 years have worked well.
- Carol noted that at least some attendees came because of a connection to that year's alumni speaker.
- Carol proposed that an alumnus who is a past recipient of Retiree Scholarship might be an appropriate speaker.
- New board addition Barb, who has extensive experience with programming and special events through her UWGB service with Outreach and Extension, noted that programs work best when aligned with mission and members' interests and expectations. Should we survey UWGB retirees? What are they doing in retirement? What might they like the Retiree Association to offer?

- Might some day we do a luncheon, or even breakfast meeting or hors d'oeuvres reception? Everything's up for discussion, but in near term will probably stay with dinner. (See discussion under "special event" below.)
- Board members thanked Pat for her tireless work on behalf of the Association and especially taking the lead in organizing the annual dinner.
- Barb and Kathy volunteered to assist Pat with the fall 2020 event.

Planning for "Retiree Night" special events

Unofficial, de facto social director Chris said he had scheduled a meeting with Weidner Center director Kelli Strickland to explore possible discounts or reception possibilities for a Retiree Night at the Weidner. He will share details next time. The Weidner Philharmonic's "Casablanca" concert in February appears to be the most likely prospect. As for scheduling a Phoenix Athletics special event, the annual Krash the Kress game and indoor tailgate party is an easy, ready-made option.

Discussion followed as to other possibilities:

- Would more retirees than the relative handful of board members who took the STEM Innovation Center tour this morning have interest in a special, retiree-focused tour? Maybe that's a future (near future) event. Let's explore.
- Gatherings don't need to be high-end, pricey. Pizza, light snacks can be OK.
- Frank noted there are logical ties in coordinating with Alumni Relations, which already does a good deal of programming. We might do more piggybacking.

Possible president's letter to Retirees

It was suggested that Dan begin to address some of the above questions and ideas raised at this meeting by way of an email message to all retirees soliciting feedback, if any. How might we better serve you? Events you'd like to see? Any interest in learning what other retirees are pursuing, post-UWGB, such as travel, hobbies, employment, worthy causes? (Sort of like the info sharing that goes on in connection with class reunions.) The president's letter might also emphasize that a primary goal of the Association is growing our scholarship support of current and future students, and make a plug for new donations. Dan said he would work up a preliminary draft and share with board members before sending.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, in the Vista Conference Room in MAC Hall.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:45 a.m.