

RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES
July 28, 2021
9 a.m., in-person, Vista Room of MAC Hall

Attendance: President Dan Spielmann, Pat Przybelski, Chris Sampson, Carol Emmons, Ken Fleurant, Curt Heuer, Frank Madzarivic, Barbara McClure-Lukens
Guest: Jacob Depas

Minutes of previous meeting

Barbara moved and Ken seconded the minutes of the previous, June 16, meeting; all ayes, approved.

University update; discussion of proposal to raze Cofrin Library building

Advancement officer Jacob Depas shared his customary briefing on UWGB news. He touched on:

- Installation of new chancellor Michael Alexander and planned day of service
- Arboretum trail bridges are planned for repair, replacement during fall '21
- Cofrin Library, marked for eventual demolition by UW System, has at least 18 months to live
- With regard to Campus Housing, planners want to demolish oldest buildings (outdated 1970s apartments) and potentially replace
- Board member discussion noted that with Library, old Bay Apts to be taken down at roughly the same time, it could provide opportunity for alumni/retiree commemoration or reunion or even fundraiser (brick sale or something similar?). Need to mark that history
- Announcement of golf course permanent closure: some stakeholders unhappy but most seem to understand instruction is a University's top priority and finances are just unworkable; will repurpose with student benefit, biodiversity in mind

Update on Retiree Scholarship endowment

Jacob briefed the Retiree Board that progress was being made, via new gifts and overall appreciation, toward the goal of building the Retiree Association Student Scholarship Fund to an amount sufficient to fund annual payout of two \$1,000 scholarships rather than the current single scholarship per year. Further discussion will follow on when, how to make changes.

Continuing email/listserv/communication challenges

Lengthy discussion led by Ken (and Pat) regarding continuing technical issues that were/are complicating communication with retirees:

- Ken: As of now (June 2021) you can un-subscribe to the Retiree Listserv, but you can't subscribe; that, of course, is a problem
- Ken: CIT was seemingly a little slow to respond when first advised of the issue, but two days ago said "it's fixed." It wasn't, not entirely. Might be a glitch based on whether user has a uwgb.edu account/address or is attempting access from outside the network
- A positive change has been made to the website, however, with more helpful language that solicits potential participants to submit their emails to us so we can at least proceed with manual sign-ups
- Ken: We might now be at a point, or will be soon, where the Retiree Association can be more proactive in seeking signups
- Pat: Advancement has perhaps been a little slow in assembling the comprehensive master list of all UWGB retirees, but there are assurances it is on the way
- Board members thanked Ken and Pat for their efforts in sorting all this out; effective and timely communication is important to the Association

To hold a fall Retiree Dinner, or not to hold... with COVID on rise

Lengthy, careful consideration was given to whether, after a one-year absence, the Retiree Association should resume the annual dinner in fall of 2021. Board members voted and split 4-4 on the idea of pulling the plug now and announcing a second year of no-banquet due to COVID. Instead, the consensus was to go ahead with tentative plans (but no down payments, no processing of checks) just to keep the possibility alive for at least a few more weeks until a more accurate determination could be made on the need for pandemic precautions or even cancellation. It was suggested we contact retirees to get their input on how likely they would be to attend. If held, the meal cost for a plated dinner (no buffet, per COVID) would be \$19 and \$21 and the Association would likely charge \$25 per person. A Zoom meeting was set for early September, the month of the banquet, to make a go or no-go decision.

Adjournment

The group had talked itself out by about 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Chris Sampson, recording secretary