

RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES
April 21, 2022
9 a.m., online via Zoom

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

Minutes of previous meeting

Pat moved and Carol seconded the minutes of the previous, July 2021, meeting; all ayes, approved.

University update: Retiree Scholarship Fund grows

Advancement officer Jacob Depas shared his customary briefing on UWGB news. He led with the announcement that the decision by retiree Ceil Hintz to fold the principal of her family scholarship fund into the Retiree Scholarship Fund has pushed the latter to a balance of about \$91,000. Jacob noted that the Retiree Association board has a decision to make; at the current fund level of nearly \$100,000, the Association is reaching a point at which it could make annual scholarship awards totaling as much as \$4,000, and expand to two (or even three?) awards annually, after always doing one per year, previously. There is time to discuss and evaluate before any change is adopted.

Also changing will be the way Advancement and Student Financial Aid handle all scholarship applications. UWGB will move to a one-spot entry point for applicants, with a single deadline and common form. The criteria for various scholarships will not change, and Financial Aid will continue to choose recipients.

Update 2: Discussions on maintaining an accurate retiree database

Jacob reiterated the Advancement Office's interest in developing and maintaining a more complete contact list of UWGB retirees. In partnership with UWGB's new chief information officer and the Human Resources Office, they will attempt to introduce a system that maximizes the number of good emails and home mailing addresses. They'll start with a request for retirees from the last four years. The UWGB Foundation's accounting supervisor, Nora Langolf, will be the point person on the project.

Related discussion: list-serv

Ken shared that the Retiree Association added only two additional retirees to its list-serv since the start of COVID. It can be argued that the university's move to Google Groups for list-servs at roughly the same time did not serve the Association well, with ease of use and information collection taking a hit. If the Advancement Office can make progress with a more comprehensive retiree database, and automatic (or automated) subscriptions accompany the upgrade, it will benefit both retiree list-serv communication with each other and with the University, and perhaps new features such as voting.

More from Jacob: search for new alumni relations director; also, Dean Katers events

Jacob mentioned that Kari Moody, UWGB's alumni relations director and in the past a helpful partner on programs involving retirees, is moving on after 10 years with Advancement to accept a position with the local nonprofit Curative Connections. Jacob also said that John Katers, UWGB dean of science, engineering and technology, is planning public events such as tours to help promote his area, and perhaps the Retiree Association would like to dovetail on some of this

programming. Dan Spielmann mentioned that a Retiree tour/open house at the new STEM building was on the drawing board but was cancelled when COVID hit.

Final update: Announcement regarding UWGB capital campaign

Jacob offered a sneak preview of an upcoming (May 2nd) announcement by Chancellor Alexander of a \$20 million universitywide capital campaign. Student access and key programs will be focal points. Among needs to be addressed:

- More scholarships for financially needy students
- Enhancement to a range of programs including a new Institute of Music, Electrical Engineering, First Nations Studies
- Center for Entrepreneurship
- New finance laboratory, a student-managed investment fund, and a Center for Personal Financial Planning
- Audio production
- Water science research and the national estuary research center
- Institute for Women's Leadership
- Athletics
- Repurposing of the former Shorewood Golf Course

Not part of the capital campaign, officially, but another recent improvement to the campus and its arboretum will be celebrated this coming Saturday (April 23) with the dedication of badly needed replacement bridges along the arboretum trails.

The board thanked Jacob for the informative report.

Action item: Agreeing on allocation amount for 2022 Retiree Association scholarships

Dan said that with \$2,732 available for the next round of Retiree Association student scholarships, he would recommend splitting the funds in equal amounts to be awarded to two student recipients. Chris moved, Curt seconded, that the Retiree Association board approve two \$1,350 scholarships be awarded this year. All ayes, motion passed.

Future events: STEM Building gathering; possibility of Annual Meeting/Picnic

It was agreed that the Retiree board should pursue with Dean John Katers the possibility mentioned earlier and collaborate where possible on any public tours or open houses his area plans for later this year. Retirees might be among the logical constituencies for this kind of event. With regard to the Annual Dinner, typically a late September or early October event, Dan floated the idea of trying something new with our first post-COVID annual meeting. How about a more informal event – a picnic -- perhaps at Lambeau Cottage, perhaps at the University Union terrace? It was agreed to discuss the idea at the next board meeting.

The next meeting was set as an in-person gathering, for 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 25, at the MAC Hall Vista conference room.

The meeting adjourned at about 10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Chris Sampson, recording secretary