

DRAFT RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES
Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025
9:30 a.m., MAC Hall Vista Room

Attendance: President Dan Spielmann, Vice President Pat Przybelski, Treasurer Frank Madzarevic, Recording Secretary Chris Sampson, directors Kevin Fermanich, Ken Fleurant, Craig Lockard, John Stoll (via Zoom), Christine Style

Guests: Laura Jarosz (in person) and Brian Rammer (via Zoom) of University Advancement

Approval of minutes

Style/Przybelski moved and seconded to approve minutes of the previous (October) meeting. All ayes. Motion passed.

Update on University news

Jarosz read written report from Rammer who was at home with an illness:

- With a total enrollment number of 11,188, UW-Green Bay announced a record enrollment in late October. This total represents an 8.2% year-over-year increase and continues the positive trajectory that UW-Green Bay has realized in past years. It also includes approximately 4,000 high school students who are earning credits toward their associate degree. Additionally, UWGB leads all UWs in growth this fall. UW-Green Bay's growth is a positive for both students and the region, considering more than 75% of UW-Green Bay grads stay in the area post-graduation.
- Provost Burns shared at a recent Coffee Break meeting that Spring 2025 enrollment is currently at 7,235, but we are still taking registrations. We are at 89% head count compared to last spring, but 1.6% more in credit hours. This number does not include the number of high schoolers as noted above.
- Cofrin Technology & Education Center project continues to move forward. Bids are due on March 4 and construction slated to begin in April or May.
- Phoenix Innovation Park continues to move forward. This is a partnership with Brown County. This Fall, a conceptual map for a mixed-use development on 64 acres of land was released. The plan calls for building new academic buildings for research and development along with a hotel, restaurant, commercial buildings and mixed-use housing. Allen Peters is the Economic Development Director for the Phoenix Innovation Park.
- Compensation Plan – Kent Bond, assistant chancellor for finance, recently shared with staff an email outlining the tentative 5-year plan centered on raising minimum salaries for faculty and staff based on CUPA baselines. Academic faculty is the focus as that group is furthest behind.

Presentation on planned giving

Laura Jarosz of Advancement shared with board members a brief overview of planned-giving opportunities at UW-Green Bay. It was a preview of a more detailed presentation she said she is willing to make to a general audience of UWGB retirees at a later date, should the Retiree Board of Directors agree there would be interest. Basically, Jarosz said, legacy gifts are not uncommon at UWGB – a number of community donors and past and present employees have included the institution in their wills and estate plans – but the University strongly encourages potential philanthropists to be proactive in communicating their wishes. The University sometimes becomes aware of these commitments only after the donors'

passing. It is much better, Jarosz said, to inquire with Advancement about the Niagara Society (the planned-giving program at UWGB) and complete paperwork that begins to address specifics. If a potential donor has an interest in a particular University department or program, they can meet with University representatives to best target their gift. Jarosz noted that Advancement several times a year shares information and distributes pamphlets on choosing to make the University a planned-gift beneficiary.

Recent and upcoming Retiree Association outings

- Student Art Show – Style, Przybelski and Sampson all attended the mid-November event and their consensus was that the student awards reception was well-attended this year with a good turnout of retirees, Art faculty, students and others. The Retiree Association's donation of \$250 to the student awards kitty (a first for our group) was gratefully acknowledged during the program.
- Lower Bay field trip and NERR program – Event host Fermanich and Spielmann shared a recap of the successful gathering. About 16 attendees turned out for the lunch and lecture/discussion held at Bay Family Restaurant on Military in late November. Presenters including Emily Tyner, UWGB's director of freshwater strategy, who talked about UWGB's history in supporting bay of Green Bay cleanup efforts and the new drive to secure federal designation (and financial support) as a National Estuarine Research Reserve. On a cool and windy afternoon, about half the attendees continued on to carpool to the restored Ken Evers wildlife area for a walking tour.
- Possible April 17 lecture on Great Lake Water Wars – Details are still pending, but it appears the Thompson Center will host a public-policy talk in Green Bay in proximity to Earth Week 2025. The guest speaker is expected to be "Great Lakes Water Wars" author Peter Annin of Northland College. It could be an opportunity for NAS and other Eco U retirees to get together for the discussion. More to come.
- Basketball reception finalized -- Spielmann reported that the pregame reception is set for noon Saturday Feb. 22, an hour previous to the women's tipoff vs. UWM at the Kress. Location will be the area of the concourse just inside the south entrance doors, overlooking the court. For those without tickets, a discounted (\$8) admission is available to retirees.
- Retiree night at Green Bay Film Society – There was general consensus that the Retiree Association should proceed with plans to be a co-sponsor of the April 2 installment of the film series. UWGB faculty David Coury and Carol Emmons, among others, have been active with the series. Spielmann said he would continue to investigate whether a UWGB-affiliated host will introduce that night's screening, the 2022 French film *Stay with Us*, which depicts a French-Jewish actor and comedian who butts up against his overbearing parents when he pursues conversion to Catholicism. The Retiree Association will invite retirees to attend. The board had previously approved the allocation of up to \$300 if a small reception can be arranged, logistics TBD, with more details to come.
- Library Archives Open House – Spielmann said Deb Anderson and the library archives staff have set the date and agreed to host a tour/open house on Monday, May 12 (likely in the afternoon) for University retirees and others who might be interested.
- Arboretum spring walk – The date has not yet been finalized, but is likely to be mid-May or later after last year's late spring made for subpar birding and plant spotting.

In general, Retiree Association board members expressed support for this year's emphasis on offering a relatively broad range of topics and activities for Association-related outings.

PS: NE Wisconsin art retrospective has significant UWGB ties

During discussion of the recent Student Art Show, Christine Style shared related news of potential interest to UWGB retirees and friends of the visual arts. It pertains to the Trout Museum of Art in Appleton, which through May 18 is hosting the final exhibit before migrating to its new building. The show is "A Creative Place: The History of Wisconsin Art," with a strong focus on Northeast Wisconsin. Familiar names including Prevetti, Kox, Dell, Winzenz, Damkoehler, Emmons, Style and others are featured prominently among the chosen artworks or in the accompanying catalog and book by curator Annemarie Sawkins. It was suggested UWGB might consider a campus-specific retrospective at some point in the future.

New web page in development for Retiree Association

Przybelski said she and Brian Rammer of Alumni Relations recently had a meeting with University web design staff interested in a redo of the overdue-for-a-redo Retiree Association website. A followup meeting is scheduled for February. (FWIW, an initial review of the current top three "hit" pages are Recent Retirees... In Memoriam... and Board of Directors info.)

Scholarship fund tops \$125k

It was reported that as of Dec. 31, 2024, the Retiree Association scholarship endowment held with the UW-Green Bay Foundation stands at \$125,903.

Adjournment: Sampson moved and Lockard seconded to adjourn. All ayes, at about 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sampson, Recording secretary.