

RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES

April 20, 2021

9 a.m., Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendance: President Dan Spielmann, Pat Przybelski, Chris Sampson, Carol Emmons, Ken Fleurant, Curt Heuer, Craig Lockard (first meeting), Frank Madzarevic

Not present: Barbara McLure-Lukens, Kathy Pletcher

Guest: Jacob Depas

Minutes of previous meeting

Recording secretary Chris Sampson said minutes of the previous meeting, from more than a year ago, in January 2020, have been lost to history.

Vote to confirm Craig Lockard appointment to the board

Dan Spielmann announced the appointment of Prof. Emeritus Craig Lockard to the board of directors to complete the unexpired term of Judi Pietsch, who recently stepped down. Curt Heuer moved and Ken Fleurant seconded, and the board confirmed Craig with all ayes. Election for a full term will take place at the September annual meeting.

Plan to proceed with in-person dinner for fall 2021

Board members expressed confidence that the pandemic will continue to subside and allow for an in-person Retiree Association Dinner and Annual Meeting this fall. The tentative date is Sept. 22, on campus. Chancellor Michael Alexander will be the guest speaker. Although board members said they hoped for a return to normal, the Retiree Association should also plan to take precautions, as necessary. Measures could include a served/plated dinner (no buffet); round table seating with four chairs per table (instead of six or more); masking and social distancing; and a request of the food service provider that only vaccinated servers work the event. If the coronavirus returns in a big way, a virtual annual meeting will be the backup plan; Carol Emmons suggested the dinner could proceed (sort of) with a takeout night to spotlight and support local restaurants. Dan and Pat Przybelski will pursue pinning down arrangements for the Sept. 22 event.

Cancellation of Retiree Association summer activities

Pat shared updates on three summer events she has typically coordinated or helped coordinate. In view of the pandemic, and consistent with various spring/summer postponements or cancellations across the community, the Retiree Association will hold off on plans for:

- Annual Arboretum Walk in May – cancelled
- Shorewood Golf Course beautification day – cancelled (course closed most of summer)
- Annual Retiree Association Golf Outing Fundraiser – likely cancelled

Summary of donations to Retiree Association Scholarship Fund

Despite the absence of in-person events over the last year, the Retiree Association found success with simple mail-out appeals for the Scholarship Fund. The two separate appeals yielded \$1,350 and \$1,090, respectively, for a total of \$2,440.

Promoting retiree participation in Advancement's community outreach database

Dan and Chris described their conversations with Ben Joniaux about the Advancement Office project that started out as a way to compile a master list of current UWGB employees and their various community connections and causes. The purpose is twofold: to be more systematic in making use of these connections for advocacy and information sharing; and to once again document the University's impressive footprint in the larger community. The Advancement Office agreed that the survey should be expanded and opened to all retirees. The Retiree board endorsed the idea, and Chris and Ken Fleurant will coordinate on making the opportunity and survey-website address known to retirees.

Problems (and solutions) re: Retiree List-serv, maintaining robust contact list

There was lengthy discussion of new and continuing challenges to Retiree Association communication

efforts. Ken described the recent CIT shift that sent the Retiree List-Serv away from campus servers and onto Google Groups; while there might be some advantages, Ken is no longer able to access the subscriber roster in a way that makes it easy to identify names and e-addresses, or even track when someone subscribed or unsubscribed. It is currently cumbersome and near-impossible to sign up – instructions on the Retiree Association website have been wrong for some time – and requires list managers to do signups manually. As a result, there have been no new listserv signups in many months. Additionally, about 20 listserv subscribers have dropped away, presumably because they didn't want to follow through with the online security training required by the UW System.

Resolution of the issue? Ken is pursuing immediate technical fixes with Patrick Goggins of CIT, and perhaps also Ken's designated co-managers of the list, Bill Shay and Kimberly Vlies. Meanwhile, Jacob DePas reports that the Advancement Office has taken it upon itself to assume responsibility for assembling a master list of UWGB retirees and their current contact information. (HR has typically encouraged participation at exit-interview time, but data is spotty and, too often, soon out of date.) The Advancement project is part of a larger strategic initiative set in motion by the Chancellor to improve communication with alumni and retirees.

Update on UW-Green Bay developments

Jacob noted staff changes with two new additions to Advancement: Kassie Linzmeier as manager of special events and annual fund drives; and Madeline VanGroll as a development director on primary assignment to the Cofrin School of Business. Depas went on to touch upon a couple of major UW-Green Bay initiatives. The first, NERR -- the effort to make the bay of Green Bay a designated National Estuarine Research Reserve – would be a natural for the University, given its history. The second involves a major \$800,000 campaign to bring improvements to the Cofrin Arboretum in the form of repairing and replacing bridges and creating a boardwalk, with special attention to the campus bayshore areas damaged by high-water erosion. He also discussed a long-term UW System facilities plan that could raze the eight-story library and replace it with a new structure.

Positive gains for Scholarship Fund, plans for single recipient (again) in 2021

Jacob reported that as of March 31, 2021, the market value of the Retiree Association Scholarship Fund had risen all the way to \$53,310 through new gifts and asset appreciation. Under the current UWGB Foundation-permitted spend-down rate, this would allow for a scholarship award(s) this year of up to \$1,702. It was mentioned that the total has reached a level that could lend itself to making awards to two different students, with each award in the \$850 range. Dan suggested the Retiree Association continue the practice, as was done in the previous year, to make one (more sizeable) scholarship award of \$1,500 to a single individual. The \$202 left unallocated from this year could be rolled over into growing the fund further, for the future. The goal will remain building the fund to permit for two scholarships per year. A motion was made by Pat, and seconded by Ken, to award a single \$1,500 scholarship in 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the board will be Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 9 a.m., via Zoom.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at about 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Chris Sampson, recording secretary