

**APPROVED November 8, 2016**

**UW-Madison Retirement Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes of October 11, 2016  
UW Credit Union, 3500 University Avenue**

Board Members Present (12):

Darrell Barth	Diane Kravetz	Bill Richner
Pat Carol	Cora Marrett	Rob Seltzer
John Helgeson	Gary Mitchell	Joel Skornicka
Dorothy Klinefelter	Chuck Read	Jim Stratton

Absent (2): Bob Dye, Sarah Potts

Staff Present: Ann Wallace

Guests: Mary Ray

**The minutes of the September 13, 2016, meeting were approved as submitted.**

Reports:

**Treasurer's Report: Approved as submitted.**

President's Report: President Gary Mitchell had a chance to talk to Vice Chancellor Charlie Hoslet and suggested that it might be time for UWRA representatives to schedule a meeting with Chancellor Blank. The last such meeting was December 9, 2013. Board members were generally supportive of such a meeting, and potential topics were discussed. It was agreed that we should ask the Chancellor what the key issues are and how can we help. It was suggested that we bring ideas about how we can help. Also discussed was possibly asking for funding help, but members urged caution in light of the very difficult budget situation of the University. Working through staff, possibly having a pre-meeting with Charlie Hoslet, was also mentioned. Gary felt that he had adequate feedback to proceed.

Gary also brought up a forum he attended with UFAS and ASM concerning the severe funding constraints on the University. He asked if there was a non-political way we can support increased funding. We have to be cautious due to our 501(c)(4) status. A long discussion followed that included consideration of the polarized political situation in the state. Methods of disseminating information in a non-partisan way were raised, such as through *The Sifter* or a speaker.

Darrell Bazzell spoke on the budget at a UWRA seminar in spring 2015. Joel Skornicka counseled caution, perhaps starting the discussion with Charlie Hoslet, who may have thoughts on how we can help without offending various constituencies. Mary Ray talked about the disconnect between college educated and non-college educated Wisconsin residents. Chuck Read suggested that UWRA might be in a good position to influence the discussion, given our older membership that has a certain distance from some of the issues.

Executive Director's Report: The \$1,000 check for the Dean of Students Crisis Fund was delivered to Lori Berquam. Brochures that were made available at the Institute on Aging Colloquium have yielded two new members. CFMR is discussing the possibility of serving coffee and cookies at a March seminar that will run 3 hours on continuity of care facilities. The question is whether this is a slippery slope to get started on. The issue will be placed on the November agenda.

*Sifter* Editor's Report: A new column will debut profiling a recent retiree. A new editor will be needed by June 2017, sooner if possible. Mary is working on a book and will need to be free at least from August 2017 to February 2018. The Board thanked Mary for her good work on *The Sifter*. Ann Wallace pointed out that a subcommittee is needed to recruit a new editor. The Communications Committee headed the process last time. Ann will contact Chere Gibson as she is back from up north.

#### Committee Reports:

There were no comments or questions about the reports that were sent out with the agenda, other than highlighting that the November ETC program by Larry Landweber, a member of the Internet Hall of Fame, should be excellent.

#### Old Business:

1. Update on Benefits Fair: Ann Wallace thanked all who helped with the Benefits Fair. It was very busy at the beginning and slow at the end. The longer day this year was probably too long. Chuck Read thanked Ann for working the long day and providing much good information to visitors to our table. The organizers made an error by moving our presentation on "If I knew then what I know now" from 11:00 to 3:30 without informing us. Our presenters were not available at 3:30.
2. Report on Big Ten Conference: Rob Seltzer said all Big Ten schools except Rutgers were represented at Nebraska. He shared a list of subjects that were on the agenda, including an emphasis on sessions on health and mindfulness. Rob asked if we had suggestions of questions to include in next year's survey of Big Ten universities. Rob shared the meeting materials, including the survey, with

Ann Wallace, who forwarded the information to Board members after the meeting.

New Business:

Diane Kravetz reported that the Volunteering Committee will discontinue the Volunteer of the Year Award due to lack of interest and nominees from the membership. The committee finds that UWRA members are very active volunteering on their own and are not looking to UWRA to develop volunteer activities. The annual \$1,000 matching-grant funds that go to Madison Public Schools will be awarded to the Foundation for Madison Public Schools. Our former relationship with Midvale Elementary School is less robust than in the past. The committee is updating its web page and its mission statement.

Next meeting: November 8, 2016, at 9:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Richner  
Secretary