



## Retirement Association

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**2020-21 Report**  
Partnership & Engagement  
Chris Kleinhenz, Chair

Members: Tom Broman (incoming chair), Chris Kleinhenz (outgoing chair), Joan Gillman, Jerry Kulcinski, Laurie Mayberry, James Guy Stratton, and Sandi Haase (ex-officio)

The membership of the Committee was almost complete renewed for 2020-21. Unfortunately, given the pandemic, the Committee was unable to put into effect the initiatives and projects that it had defined in 2019-2020, but some discussions about them took place. These primarily concerned volunteering activities that would be of interest to UWRA members. The Committee was able, however, to get a better handle on and to refine some of the ideas floated during the preceding year. Thanks to the efforts of Jerry Kulcinski, contacts were made with the UW Alumni Association and the UW Athletic Department, and some interesting possibilities emerged from them. These will be the focus of the Committee in 2021-22, under the new chair, Tom Broman.

### UW Alumni Association

Sarah Schutt (Executive Director, Wisconsin Alumni Association) suggested that their WAA Advocacy program would seem to be a good fit for UWRA members. It also happens to be a perfect time to mobilize the experience, insights and affinity of former UW Faculty and Staff as it is a budget year with many significant elements of Governor Evers' budget directly impacting UW-Madison. Her colleague, Mike Fahey, leads WAA's State and University Relations program and is the point person for us on the variety of engagement activities available for prospective volunteers. He will be a great source of information should members of UWRA decide to go this direction.

### UW Athletics: Wisconsin Athletics Volunteer Possibilities

Daron Jones (Director of External Engagement) has identified the following areas and possible opportunities:

**Bucky's Ambassadors (Football).** These individuals would help us prior to the start of the football games. They would welcome and assist people just outside the stadium or near the gates. In some cases we may provide desirable items that could be handed out to both the home and visiting team fans. We also have some new stadium initiatives for football games that this group could possibly help us share with people. The role would end at kickoff so if people had tickets they would be able to use them. There is a chance we could also provide tickets for the people willing to help. We would be looking for 10-15 volunteers per game.

**Guest Assistance (Football, Basketball, Hockey).** This would be for individuals that were willing to assist us at games inside the venues (on the concourse) with directional information and FAQs at some of our guest relations podiums. We have a team of students that are dispatched to help guests with accessible needs or other assistance, but we could use individuals to help us pregame with being present at the busy areas on the concourse.

**Athletic Facility Tour Guides.** Tour guides are needed to help with our facility tour program of both Camp Randall and the Kohl Center. This program likely won't start back up until Spring of

2022. Historically we get many tour requests from school groups, especially March through May (a lot of 4<sup>th</sup> grade groups because it's when children are taught Wisconsin history in school). We have trouble staffing the tour program with enough student tour guides on weekdays because they are in-class during the day. We would provide the training and a couple of polo shirts to those interested in helping us with this. We also haven't been able to provide daily walk-in tours because of a lack of staffing, but if this was something folks were willing to volunteer for we might be able to get to the point of adding walk-in tour hours for visitors.

**Badgers Give Back Program (Community Relations).** This program partners on many community engagement initiatives and events throughout the year. They could use volunteers to help with these logistics and operations. Because the specifics of what they do varies so significantly by each initiative/event, I don't have a catchall description to provide other than saying they need to have additional hands to help. An example include donation drives where they need help collecting and sorting items, as well possible assistance with the delivery to non-profits.

**Children's Hospital Guest Hosts.** We host the families of children's hospital patients on a patio at our home football games. In addition to the tickets to the game we provide the families with a chance to meet Bucky, box lunches, shirts, etc. We typically need individuals to help host these families and make sure their needs are met.

**Donation Program.** We get a lot of donation item requests and have recently lost our staffing for those who helped us file and fulfill requests. If a couple of individuals were interested in helping frequently throughout the year then this could be a fit.

The Committee has not had the opportunity to consider these various options. However, it has been working with the Strategic Framework Group on the following related issues:

- 1) Matching up UWRA members as mentors for UW undergraduate students, by contacting various offices/people on campus to learn how our members may be able to help with mentoring: Powers-Knapp (in the Mercile J. Lee Scholars Program), TRIO (Center for Education Opportunity), Morgridge Center, and advisors on campus.
- 2) Making UWRA members more aware of the courses and other activities of PLATO, by contacting PLATO to discuss the initiative and to learn what sorts of programs exist and how our members can receive this information.

Once the pandemic is over and the Committee can function in a normal manner, the above points will be pursued.