

USI Retirees Coordinating Council Agenda
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
1:30 p.m. Foundation Office

Present: Michael Whipple, John Deem, Ginger Ramsden, Chris Jines, Phil Fisher, Jim Bandoli, Sara Rhoades, Foundation liaison

Absent: Vickie Johnson, Yvonne Floyd, Sherrienne Standley, ex officio

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Michael Whipple at 1:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 22, 2015 meeting were read and approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Since Nancy Johnson is out of town, Michael presented the treasurer's report Nancy prepared for the meeting. The current balance is \$3714.35, which does not include a few recently received membership dues, estimated at \$140. Chris moved we accept the report, John seconded; the treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Introduction of Development Liaison: Sara Rhoades, the committee's new Foundation liaison introduced herself to the committee. Sara earned both her Bachelor and Master degrees from USI, working on campus as she completed her studies. In 2004, she began working in the Registrar's office, moved to Graduate Studies for five years, and then took a position at the New Harmony gallery, where she worked four years. Sara is married, has two daughters and is a noted jewelry-creation artist. She is thrilled to be back on campus, closer to home and her older daughter's school.

Grant Program – Michael reported on the current status of the USI retirees' educational grant established for selected employees taking for-credit courses, who will be awarded small stipends to support their education. These stipends may be used for books, lab fees, child care, or other purposes as determined by the recipients. Michael presented this idea at the November Annual Meeting of the retirees group, and received only positive feedback. Since then, Michael has met with Steve Bridges to finalize plans, in order for the awards to be made this spring semester. After the final refund period ends (February 5, this semester), Steve will send us a complete list of employees who are still enrolled in at least one USI credit-bearing course. The committee, or representatives of the committee, will draw names randomly to determine who will receive the stipends, which will be distributed by Financial Aid through the Bursar's Office. After discussion, Jim moved we award five stipends @ \$100 each to five USI employees for the spring and fall terms 2016, with the stipulation that these same employees may not receive this education grant award two consecutive semesters. Phil seconded the motion and prior to the vote, John Deem cautioned the committee not to set a precedent of awarding \$500 per semester, as the retiree group's financial reserves will change year-to-year. After continued discussion, it was determined the committee can vote on the amount of the grant awards and the number of awardees each semester, based on the group's financial reserves. Michael called for the vote and the motion carried with five votes for and one vote

may. Michael will keep the committee informed on the process of awarding this semester's retirees' education grant stipends.

Dates of Scheduled Events: Michael reviewed the upcoming events important to USI retirees, which include:

Feb 20- annual luncheon at Kennel Club sponsored by USI Foundation

March 8- Spring Wellness program

November 10- annual meeting of USI retirees

January, date TBA- Pizza party at Turoni's on the first day of spring faculty meetings

Retirees Wellness Program: Ginger is coordinating this event, scheduled in Carter Hall on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. The contract for food and the space has been signed and returned to Scheduling. The program will include topics on both health and financial well-being and the schedule of workshop topics and speakers will be finalized before the end of January. Sara and Sherrienne will work with Ginger in marketing the program to USI retirees. Michael will work with Steve Bridges and HR to invite prospective USI retirees to the program, as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Establish Coordinating Council Meeting Dates: The group determined the following meeting dates for this year's Coordinating Council meetings, to be held at the USI Foundation office at 1:30 p.m., unless notified differently: March 15, May 10, July 26, Sept 20, Annual Meeting for all USI retirees will be held the second Thursday of November, which is November 10, 2016. If committee members have issues with these dates after checking calendars, they should touch base with Michael.

Telephone Call Committee: Michael explained that not all USI retirees read USI email and asked if any other committee members would assist him in calling designated retirees regarding special events. John mentioned that Mary Alice Bertram and Jan Coutts used to help with these calls and he will contact them to see if they are still interested in making calls. Chris Jines also offered to help with calling.

Sponsored Activities: We reviewed last year's activities sponsored by our group and Jim offered to coordinate another canoe trip on Hovey Lake, which was well-attended. He will attempt to schedule the trip in early June, as last year's July outing was held on one of the hottest days of the summer. Sherrienne's wine and cheese gathering after one of the plays held on campus was successful and we will check to see if we might replicate this event after a USI Theater production, or perhaps after a Sunday matinee production in New Harmony. Michael will look into obtaining free tickets to a USI basketball game again this year, and Ginger will investigate an Otters' baseball game experience. Phil Fisher mentioned he and his wife, Helen, accompanied USI art students on a trip to Europe and will check to see if there might be options this year for retirees to travel on USI-sponsored trips abroad.

Bereavement/Illness Action: Chris Jines offered to send cards on behalf of our group to fellow retirees and their families in times of illness or death. John recommended we have personalized

cards made that are specific to our group. Sara suggested an online company, Vistaprint that provides this service at reasonable prices. Chris will check on the cost of having personalized cards made.

OLD BUSINESS

Data Base Access at USI library. Michael spoke with Steve Bridges, who is developing a plan to enable retirees who require continued access to data bases at the USI library, to be able to continue using the data bases. Once the details are in place, our committee will inform all USI retirees of the process.

John mentioned that he was just informed that CONCERN, a confidential short-term counseling program offered by Deaconess and provided to USI employees, is not available to USI retirees. Michael will check into the possibility of keeping this benefit for USI retirees.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.