

USI Retirees Coordinating Council Agenda
Tuesday, March 15, 2016
1:30 p.m. Foundation Office

Present: Michael Whipple, Yvonne Floyd, Ginger Ramsden, Chris Jines, Jim Bandoli, Sherrienne Standley, ex officio, Sara Rhoades, Foundation liaison

Absent: Nancy Johnson, Phil Fisher, John Deem

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 January 19, 2016 meeting were read. Yvonne moved the minutes be approved as amended, Jim seconded; the minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Johnson was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted the treasurer's report, which Michael updated to reflect the balance as of February 29, 2016. He reported the current balance is \$3670.05, which includes 65 paid memberships. Chris moved we accept the report, John seconded; the treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Spring Wellness Fair: Ginger reported 51 people attended the fair, and distributed copies of the compilation of evaluations (attached to minutes, along with a copy of the program). The fair was successful, but requires a lot of time and effort to plan and implement. The USI Nursing program is a sponsor of the Mid-America Institute on Aging (MAIA), which offers a two-day conference on aging and wellness, on campus in August. MAIA has offered to allow all USI retirees to attend their conference free-of-charge, and the Retirees Council decided it would be a wise use of time and resources to collaborate with the MAIA to market their conference to USI retirees. Ginger will represent the Retirees Council as a member of the MAIA conference planning committee.

Grant Program – Michael reported the first USI retirees' scholarship awards, \$100 each, were given to four USI employees enrolled in spring credit-bearing classes on campus. Michael and Jim conducted a random drawing of all USI employees enrolled in credit classes and drew five names, under the supervision of a former USI board member and a deputy sheriff. The Bursar's Office realized one of the selected recipient had withdrawn from classes, and stopped payment before that award was given. Shannon Hoehn, one of the scholarship recipients, sent a very kind thank-you email to the Council members. Sherrienne suggested we inform Ginny Bryant of the scholarship recipients each semester, so that she can be certain the awardees know what organization provided the awards.

Executive Director of Human Resources: Jim attended the open presentations of the two final candidates for Executive Director of Human Resources, and gave an overview of his assessment. He submitted a survey to Human Resources after the presentations, endorsing the candidate who currently works in a hospital setting, as that person had extensive administrative experience in the field and provided more in-depth answers to questions.

OLD BUSINESS

Bereavement/Illness Action: Chris Jines reported the results of her research for bereavement cards that the Retirees Council can send to USI retirees and their families, on behalf of all USI retirees. Chris suggested we purchase cards from Postcards.com at a cost of \$27.75 per 25 cards. The group discussed when to send cards, and to whom, and decided a sympathy card will be sent to all USI retirees whose spouses die, or to the families of retirees who pass away. Chris moved we purchase a set of cards, Yvonne seconded, motion carried. Chris will purchase the cards and be reimbursed by the Council.

Data Base Access: Michael reported that Steve Bridges has spoken with the Provost and the library staff and that any retirees needing to use the library databases should be able to continue to access them after retirement.

Call Committee: Michael reported that Mary Alice Bertram offered to assist Chris in calling retirees who do not use email, in order for them to stay current on retiree activities. Sherrienne stated we continue to update the retirees' directory regularly.

Sponsored Activities: We discussed several options for USI retirees sponsored activities, including the possibility of attending a dress rehearsal in New Harmony, prior to the opening of one of the theater productions. Sara mentioned the theater likes to have an audience for the dress rehearsal; Sherrienne will look into this, mentioning we might consider scheduling an after-the-play event in New Harmony.

Jim reported on plans for a canoe trip on June 7th (rain date June 9th), to one of the old stripper pits in Lynnville park, noting it would be easy paddling for 2 ½ miles, taking about 1 ½ to 2 hours. Jim will reserve the canoes with Wesselmans at a cost of \$20/person, payable the day of the trip. The trip will begin at 9:30 a.m. and requires at least 10 paid people in order to get the canoes. Details will be sent to retirees at a later date and reservations will go through Sara. Yvonne mentioned the Mystic Winery is also in Lynnville, and Sherrienne offered to contact the winery to see if we can coordinate an after-canoeing lunch.

Ginger reported on the cost of an outing to an Otters baseball game. After discussion, the group determined it would be best to support the Alumnae Services-sponsored evening at the Otters, rather than holding a separate event for retirees.

Sherrienne promoted the Alumnae Services USI day at Churchhill Downs on May 14. Retirees are welcome to join alumnae attending the event at a cost of \$37/person. Sara will request promotional information from the alumnae office in order for Michael to email the information to retirees.

Concern: Michael reported HR is negotiating with CONCERN to include retirees in the annual contract, but warned that the cost may be prohibitive.

NEW BUSINESS

Facebook page: After discussion, the group decided we could each include information about the USI retirees' activities in our own Facebook pages, since none of us are eager to manage a "formal" page. We didn't rule out the possibility, but decided to take it slowly, gathering information on what USI marketing rules govern such pages, and if creating a formal USI Retirees Facebook page is feasible.

Medical Premiums: Michael reported to the Council that USI employees who qualify for the lower-paid employees' medical plan are no longer eligible for that plan when they retire. He would like to make a request for the USI Board to consider allowing these employees to continue to qualify for a lower-payment medical plan when they retire. The Council agreed that Michael should send a letter to Dr. Bennett requesting that she approach the Board regarding this issue.

Bylaws: Sherrienne will continue to work with Sara to revise the bylaws, as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginger Ramsden, Secretary

Approved 5/10/16