

Minutes

USI Retirees' Coordinating Council Meeting Thursday, September 16, 2021 USI Foundation Office, 2 p.m.

Members Present: Nancy Bizal, Cindy Brinker, John Deem, Craig Ehlen, Tim Mahoney, Marlene Shaw

Members Absent: Joanne Artz, Phyllis Oeth

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Marlene Shaw at 2:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Tim Mahoney moved the minutes of the July 29, 2021, meeting be approved with four corrections, Nancy Bizal seconded. The corrected minutes were approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: John Deem reported the financial statement for the Retiree Organization as of August 31, 2021, reflects a fund balance of \$5,015.41.

As of July 1, 2021, the fund balance was \$4,655.41.

Membership fees of \$360 have been collected from 18 individuals since July 1.

There were no expenditures.

There was discussion about the need to clarify the date when dues should be paid. Section III. Membership of the USI Retirees By-Laws does not address the date annual dues are to be paid. The following statement appears in the Vintage Times: "Dues cover 12 months from one Annual Meeting until the next (usually November to November)." It was agreed that Nancy Bizal and Cindy Brinker would meet to clarify the date dues are to be paid.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Marlene Shaw reported that 80 people made reservations for the President's Reception for retirees in the Griffin Center on July 29. Fifty-three people attended and 36 were retirees. Hard copies of the USI Retirees' Directory July 2021 and Summer/Fall 2021 Vintage Times were distributed to those in attendance. Upon request, Sharri Herriott in the USI Foundation Office will email copies of the directory to retirees. Hard copies of the Vintage Times will be mailed to retirees not in attendance. There was discussion that adequate time was not provided to proof the directory for corrections before it was printed in 2021. The schedule for printing and distribution of the directory in 2022 will be reviewed.

The Not-Back-to-School Gathering at Turoni's was held on August 17. Reservations were made for 21 people. Thirteen people attended and eight people cancelled.

OLD BUSINESS

The subcommittee for the Wanda Hibbitts campus celebration (Craig Ehlen, Nancy Bizal and Tim Mahoney) reported on progress for Wanda's campus visit. There was discussion about the logistics of the visit. Craig Ehlen suggested another way to honor Wanda for her 100th birthday would be to ask people to contribute \$100 to the Wanda Hibbitts Scholarship for her 100 years. The Wanda Hibbitts Scholarship was the first scholarship established in the College of Business. It was agreed with the help of the USI Foundation and Alumni Relations, a solicitation could be made for people to contribute to the Wanda Hibbitts Scholarship. Craig Ehlen agreed to contact David Bower to determine the best way to ask for contributions to the scholarship fund.

President Shaw reported she had received a report from John Baburnich with the names of students eligible for one of the five \$100 scholarships to be awarded by the USI Retirees. The requirements for receipt of the scholarships were discussed. At the Council meeting on July 29, it was decided that employees seeking their first undergraduate degree or first graduate degree would be eligible to receive the scholarship. President Shaw referred to the original guidelines for the Grant Program reported in the Coordinating Council minutes on January 19, 2016. It was agreed that the standards for receipt of the scholarships could be established by members of the Coordinating Council. Tim Mahoney moved to award the scholarships to full-time benefits eligible employees pursuing their first undergraduate degree or their first graduate degree. Craig Ehlen seconded the motion. It was unanimously agreed to ask John Baburnich to run a new list that included employees who met the criterion to receive one of the scholarships. President Shaw and Cindy Brinker will meet with John to clarify the scholarship requirements. Once the list is finalized, the recipients of the scholarships will be chosen on a random basis.

NEW BUSINESS

Sherry Darrell has served for ten years as the editor for the Vintage Times. Council members signed a card of appreciation to be sent to Sherry Darrell for her work on the Vintage Times. Cindy Brinker announced that Linda Cleek has agreed to serve as the new editor for the Vintage Times beginning with the Winter/Spring 2022 edition of the publication. There was some discussion about the next issue of the Vintage Times and what to include in the publication.

The Annual Retiree Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18. Program ideas for the meeting were discussed. It was suggested that a tour of the new athletic and aquatics facilities may be a draw for retirees to attend the meeting.

President Shaw reviewed the slate for the 2022-2023 Council members.

Members completing 2nd two-year term in 2021: Nancy Bizal and Marlene Shaw (will rotate off the Council)

Members completing 2nd year of 2nd two-year term in 2022: John Deem and Craig Ehlen

Members completing 1st two-year term in 2021: Joanne Artz (chose to rotate off the Council for a second two-year term); Phyllis Oeth (wants to continue on Council for 2nd two-year term)

Members completing 1st year of 1st two-year term: Cindy Brinker and Tim Mahoney

There are three open positions on the Council (replacing Bizal, Shaw, and Artz). President Shaw and Cindy Brinker have reached out to several retirees as to their interest in serving on the Council. Once the slate is finalized, President Shaw will send the slate to all members of the Retiree Coordinating Council by email.

Proposed slate of Council members:

President: Cindy Brinker

Vice President/President-elect: TBD

Secretary: TBD

Treasurer: John Deem

Council Members: Craig Ehlen, Tim Mahoney, Phyllis Oeth '81

President Marlene Shaw will complete her second two-year term in November 2021. The Council agreed for President Shaw to remain on the Council for the next year as an ex officio member of the Council.

Sherrienne Standley has been sending sympathy cards on behalf of the Retiree Council for many years. President Shaw spoke with Sherrienne and she wants to continue sending the cards for the Council. Council members signed a card of appreciation to be sent to Sherrienne.

Cindy Brinker mentioned that Connie Schnarre had suggested the Retiree Council develop a Facebook Page that could only be accessed by retirees or by permission by the administrator of the page. Cindy contacted the USI Web Team about any requirements for setting up the page. Many other university retiree groups have Facebook Pages. It provides an opportunity to communicate in a timely basis with members of the group. This is a project that will be considered in 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully recorded,

Cynthia S. Brinker, Secretary Pro Tem

As Corrected – January 20, 2022