

University of Idaho Retirees Association, Inc.
Annual Meeting
November 17, 2016

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting for Approval at the 2017 Annual Meeting

Call to Order: President Dale Gentry called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. in the Centennial Room of the University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho. There were forty people in attendance. He thanked past president Sue Eschen for her help and support during his term and then introduced the board members present and reminded the group of the “information fair” immediately following this meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 19, 2015 annual meeting, prepared by Douglas Q. Adams, UIRA secretary for 2015, were presented. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report: The UIRA treasurer, Cathy Loney, presented two financial reports to the annual meeting. One covered receipts and disbursements from January 1, 2016 through November 15, 2016 and the second report covered the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. She reviewed the distributed reports calling attention to our overall financial health. The general fund balance at the end of 2015 was \$7,381.98 and the balance on November 15, 2016 was \$7,457.04. The balance in the savings accounts was \$10,202.13 and the balance in the UIRA endowment was \$121,541.80. A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Caring and Memorials: Committee chair Linda Williams submitted a written report to the annual meeting listing the members who had died since the beginning of this year. Fifty-six retirees or spouses of retirees make up that list and Gentry asked the meeting to observe a moment of silence in their memory.

Membership: Committee chair Sue Eschen presented her report to the annual meeting. She introduced the other members of the committee – Ed McBride and Linda Maxwell Silva and noted that one of their goals this year had been to educate themselves about the UI processes that take place when an employee retires. The committee met with HR representatives in the spring and one outcome of that meeting was to revamp the UIRA brochure which will appear in a new format in early 2017. This should be a useful recruiting tool.

Also in the spring the committee met with advancement and information services people responsible for the UI database that keeps track of personal information, including UIRA membership information. As a result of that meeting the board is now able to request retiree lists and other reports directly from AIS without having to go through the Office of Alumni Relations.

Eschen reported that total membership in UIRA is now 531 and 352 of those live in the counties surrounding Moscow. The world-wide number of retirees – members and non-members of UIRA – is 1,102.

The age breakdown of membership is:

- 7 members under the age of 60
- 116 members between the ages of 60-69
- 216 members between the ages of 70-79
- 152 members between the ages of 80-89
- 40 members over the age of 90

The goal – as always – is to increase the number of UIRA members especially in other regions of the state of Idaho. Our target group will be retirees who have been gone from the university for two years, trying not to call on people just as they retire, but just make sure they have received the new brochure.

Communication: Before introducing committee chair Peter Haggart, Gentry noted that that the board had split the old “membership/communications” committee into two separate committees. Haggart presented the committee report highlighting the move of the link to the UIRA website from Alumni Relations to the main UI web page under the heading of Faculty and Staff. He is also reported that the committee has been working to document the procedures and processes for communicating with members. In the coming months the committee will be looking at exactly what information should be available at the UIRA webpage. It was also noted that not very many members make use of the UIRA Facebook page.

Social and Special Programs: Chair Joyce Davidson thanked the members of her committee – Linda Maxwell Silva, Joe Cloud and Cathy Loney – for their good work this year. Showing the boundless energy of the committee, Davidson presented the annual meeting with an extensive list of events and activities extending through December of 2017.

She noted that this year UIRA added an iPad training class and an evening of wine tasting and dinner with bus transportation from Moscow. The Spring Luncheon was changed to a very successful brunch. We also offered an educational bird watching tour. The architectural tour of New York City (led by emeritus professor Nels Reese) had a full complement of 18 participants. We also participated in a holiday show by the UI Theater Arts Department and the Dancers, Drummers and Dreamers presentation with members getting a discounted ticket price. UIRA members also continue to support both the UI Arboretum and Pritchard Gallery with our attendance at tours and exhibits.

Davidson was given much deserved praise and thanks for her leadership during her tenure on the board of directors and leadership in our social and special programs.

Scholarship

Joe Cloud, chair of the scholarship committee, said that the UIRA has provided four scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year. Recipients were:

Jamie Waters	Management and Human Resources Management
Cameron Breuner	Sociology
Julianne Bledsoe	Advertising
Sophie Everett	Elementary Education

Jamie and Julianne are scheduled to make presentations at the Idaho Treasures luncheon today.

President Gentry pointed out that normally we give three scholarships each year, but due to changes taking place in the scholarship office, a carry-over of funds and communication with that office we ended up providing four grants this year.

Gentry introduced Sharon Morgan, Senior Director in the Office of Estate, Trust and Gift Planning who spoke to the meeting about the scholarship fund. She wanted to make sure that retirees knew about and took advantage of the possibility of donating (tax free) the required yearly withdrawals from IRA's directly to the UIRA scholarship endowment fund that is managed by the UI.

Gentry said that there will be a focus on trying to get contributions to our scholarship endowment to grow another \$30,000 to assure that we can give three scholarships on a continuing basis.

In response to an inquiry from the meeting audience it was noted that the normal scholarship amount is \$2,000, but we had some carry-over of funds from last year and partial year funding of grants that allowed to award four scholarships.

Benefits

Janice Fletcher, one of the UIRA representatives on the UI Benefits Advisory Group (BAG) provided the membership with a written report, which she highlighted in her oral report to the annual meeting.

The University of Idaho Health Plan, including retiree benefits and claims experience, remained relatively stable in 2016. Benefits administration has become increasingly challenging with the introduction of the Affordable Care Act, which has caused some disruption in the health insurance marketplace, especially for large employers. The UI is among non-union large employers who continue to offer access to health insurance for qualifying retirees and their dependents. Our plan is self-insured, which means that income from contributions covers expenses of the cost of claims and administration. The UI retains a benefits consulting firm and that firm that has reduced our costs. Costs for prescription drugs for employees during 2015 was much higher than anticipated. That spike of cost of claims did not continue into 2016.

The bottom line for retirees is:

- ◆ Retirees do not need to re-enroll in order to maintain their benefits.

- ◆ No benefits have changed under the retiree medical plans.

Judy Colbeck, a benefits specialist for the UI HR office, went into some of the finer details of our insurance plan and then introduced other HR specialists who would be available to answer questions at the Information Fair following the annual meeting.

President Gentry pointed out that several years ago Carol Grupp was made a “permanent” member of the UIRA board as our primary representative of retirees on the Benefits Advisory Group. He went on to say that Carol’s contributions over the years has been outstanding in enhancing and protecting health benefits for UI retirees and their spouses.

Remarks by the UIRA President:

Dale Gentry thanked the Alumni Relations Office staff for their invaluable help over the year in helping the UIRA. Kathy Barnard and Tim Helmke were faced with the problem of no institutional memory being left behind because of the departure of the previous ARO executive officer. Thus, they spent a good deal of time with us discovering what exactly their office needs to do to help our organization meet its goals. Gentry offered his thanks and gratitude to them from all of the UIRA membership.

He also expressed the thanks of the board to UI President Chuck Staben for the \$2000 provided by the president’s office that allows the UIRA board to operate without having to charge membership dues to new members.

Gentry said that we will continue to reach out to members in all parts of the state. Our meeting in Boise this week was enthusiastically received and more events will be planned in the future. The Alumni Office will also be inclusive in inviting retirees to alumni events held all over the state.

He also noted that the board will be documenting board procedures so that new officers and board members will be able to have an easier time going about board business.

Election of new UIRA Board Members:

President Gentry presented the membership with the following nominations for new board members – The Class of 2019:

Barbara Jordan, UI Library, retired 2010
Mary Ann Reese, CALS, retired 2012
Dave Walker, Agricultural Economics, retired 2002
Maury Wiese, Plant and Soil Science, retired 2002

and

Alternative: Linda Webb, Boise, Extension Education 4-H, retired 2008

There being no nominations from the floor, a motion was made to cast a unanimous vote for this slate of nominees. The motion was approved unanimously.

Gentry offered thanks and praise to those members who had served on the board the last three years and were completing their terms.

Douglas Q. Adams

Joyce Davidson

Janice Fletcher

Sue Eschen

UIRA 2017 President and Officers

Gentry announced that at the November board meeting the board had elected Ed McBride (currently vice-president) to be the board president in 2017. He also noted that other officers of the 2017 board would be elected at the December board meeting.

Adjournment

There being no new business from the floor, President Gentry adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m. and advised all to attend the Information Fair being held before the Idaho Treasure Award Luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Haggart, Secretary for the UIRA Board of Directors and UIRA Annual Meeting