

**UWG Association of Retired Faculty and Staff
Online Meeting of the Coordinating Council
April 30, 2021**

Present: Meg Cooper (presiding), Anne Richards, Kathryn Grams, Francie Taylor, Bonnie Bar, Jimmy Drew, Frank Pritchett, Sally Roberts, Anita Thomas, Alice Wesley. Also present were Therese Dingle and Sharon Seneca representing Human Resources. (A few of the attendees did not return to the meeting after a technical glitch part way through.)

Absent: Bob Powell, John von Eschenbach, Diane Williamson.

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: Meg called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, and with a quorum established, Kathryn Grams moved and Anne Richards seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2021, CC meeting; the motion passed.

Human Resources (HR) Personnel Updates: Because of other job responsibilities, Therese Dingle will no longer work closely with the ARFS council; Sharon Seneca is now our liaison. With the retirement of Terri Murphy, Holly Mostrom will be the HR primary contact for anything benefits-related. Updates to the website will go to Sharon, and she'll be the contact with ITS; funding requests also go to Sharon.

Newsletter Committee: Anne Richards is working with Sharon Seneca and Terri Walthour to review the processes/procedures involved in publishing the ARFS newsletter, *The Rejuvenator*. Terri Walthour is now the HR contact to sign off on the newsletter and provide authorization to pay. Possible content for the next newsletter includes (1) updates regarding HR assignments, especially noting that Holly Mostrom is now the primary benefits consultant for UWG, (2) plans for the 2021 annual reunion, recognition of 2020-2021 retirees, and recognition of 2019-2020 retirees, (3) a brief report on the HRA survey, (4) a blurb on the latest scholarship award winner and details about scholarship donations, and (5) a feature on retirees' achievements.

We also want to encourage retirees to stay in touch and update contact information with HR. Sharon noted that this cannot be done by phone; the retiree would need to email, use postal mail, or stop by the HR office. Sharon was not sure if changes given to HR would be reflected in University Advancement, for example, or if the retiree would have to contact other entities separately. Distributing the previous issue of *The Rejuvenator* took a bit longer than expected due to the HRA survey materials included; another newsletter should be published shortly.

Scholarship Committee Update: Meg Cooper reported for John von Eschenbach who is recuperating from knee replacement and was unable to participate in the meeting due

to a therapy appointment. There were nine finalists for the scholarship, and the UWG General Scholarship Committee selected Nathaniel Davis from Dalton, Georgia, as the recipient. He is a sophomore Health and Community Wellness major and is related to UWG retiree Van Andrew Davis, Jr. This year's scholarship amount is \$1216.

Nominating Committee: Kathryn Grams, chair of the committee, reported that we will have up to three openings for at-large CC members (assuming we keep numbers the same going forward) as three current members (Bonnie Bar, Bob Powell, and Frank Pritchett) are scheduled to rotate off but are eligible for a second term; Kathryn will verify whether or not they are interested in serving another term. Two persons are needed to serve on the committee along with the president and president-elect; one must be a current member but not an officer of the CC, and the other must be a current or former member but not an officer of the CC. Kathryn will send out an email to Council members asking for volunteers to serve on the committee and expand to all ARFS members if needed.

Honoring Retirees: Meg Cooper reported that efforts are almost complete with regard to recognizing the 2019-2020 retirees, medallions are ready, and she will meet within the next week with Brooke Keener at Printing Services to finalize the tribute booklet. The biggest issue at this time is with the quality of the photographs. Meg asked CC members to let her know if they were aware of any retirees other than those she is aware of who had passed away during the 2019-2020 year so that they could be included on the "In Memorium" page.

Whether or not the reunion for 2020-2021 retirees will be an in-person event will depend on university policy as related to COVID-19. If an in-person reunion can be held, Frank Pritchett will serve as liaison with Dine West. Other volunteers interested in helping with this event were Bonnie, Francie, Anne, Alice, and Meg. Issues to be resolved include whether or not lunch will be provided, what the cost would be and who would pay, who will serve as photographer, and whether or not last year's retirees should be included. Meg will consult with HR about in-person events in the fall and what they anticipate their role would be in planning and implementing this annual event if it can be held in person.

We are not receiving many Welcome to ARFS forms for 2020-2021 retirees, so contacting these individuals is a bit more complicated this year. There was concern that this means we don't have proof retirees have met USG/BOR requirements, so we will double check names with Holly Mostrom.

HRA/YSA Survey: Meg Cooper and Anne Richards reported that the survey was very time-consuming but worthwhile; it was not set up electronically so no electronic analysis could be done. 610 surveys were sent; 182 were returned. Counting spouses, the responses of 197 retirees reporting they knew about their accounts were included in

the quantitative analysis. The initial report on the survey had been sent out in advance of the Council meeting. A final report, including analyses of the comments, will be prepared in the future. The biggest concern was that the survey conceivably did not reach a large number of people who are probably the ones with the questions/concerns. Twenty four of those surveyed needed major assistance in use of their HRA accounts. The survey results will be uploaded to the website, and a short summary will be written for the next issue of the newsletter. Meg and Anne noted that AON is going to provide a list of FAQs on its site. Based on discussion there was some concern about personal liability if some retirees wish to help others with their accounts and therefore have access to personal information. Meg will check on this issue.

Meg will contact Mitch Clifton (ARFS member and chair-elect of the USGRC) regarding how to go about presenting survey information at the state level.

USGRC and GA-HERO Spring Meetings: Anne Richards reported that extensive minutes of the USG Retiree Council (USGRC) meeting are posted on the ARFS website and that the latest Georgia Higher Ed Retiree Organization (GA-HERO) meeting resulted in 19 pages of notes. Of particular interest was a discussion of what to consider in terms of home safety and other concerns as a person ages.

Getting UWG-Related Information: There are still issues regarding access to information related to the university. Previous requests to have an ARFS representative on the all-staff/all-faculty email list serve have been denied; Meg will send a request to HR for information to be shared with ARFS members.

Next Meeting: The next ARFS meeting will be held toward the end of June, still on a Friday at 10 am. CC members will be polled regarding date preferences.

Other Business: Kathryn Grams will send out a copy of the latest CDC guidelines depicting the wearing of masks in various locations based on a person's vaccination status.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Taylor, Secretary