

**UWG Association of Retired Faculty and Staff  
In-Person Meeting, Campus Center 104  
August 27, 2021**

**Present:** Meg Cooper (presiding), Anne Richards, Kathryn Grams, Francie Taylor, Bonnie Bar, Jimmy Drew, Sally Roberts, Anita Thomas, Alice Wesley, and Diane Williamson. Special guest was Sharon Seneca, Human Resources.

**Absent:** Bob Powell, Frank Pritchett, John von Eschenbach.

**Call to Order and Approval of Minutes:** Meg Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. A motion by Diane Williamson with a second by Anne Richards to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2021, meeting passed unanimously.

**Update from Human Resources:** Due to a last-minute commitment, Rodney Snider, Director of HRIS & Employee Services, was unable to attend; he was represented by Sharon Seneca who serves as the HR liaison to ARFS. Sharon reminded us that she is currently fielding phone calls related to retiree benefits since Holly Mostrom, previously identified as the primary benefits coordinator, has left UWG; that position is currently unfilled. Sharon indicated that she is doing the best she can to support ARFS but that there are requests/needs that require authorization at a level higher than hers and that it takes time to get the proper approvals.

A brief summary of our discussion with Sharon follows: (1) Retirees cannot be added to the Campus Directory, which is now provided online, but a retiree directory could be created off-site with a link on the ARFS website to access it; one person could be designated each year to do the updating, and any requests for a printed copy of the directory would be handled individually. (2) The ARFS listserv is now working as intended. (3) The medallions for the 2020-2021 retirees are ready to be engraved. (4) The status of the 2021 retiree celebration is dependent on a number of issues, and current UWG policy indicates that masks are highly recommended but cannot be required. (5) There is still concern regarding the ARFS website and who is responsible for updating the info with some delays of up to four months; Diane Williamson indicated her willingness to do website updating if given some additional training and permission to access the site. (6) The ARFS budget allocation is still up in the air, and Sharon continues to work with Advancement and other areas to determine what is done and/or paid for by particular UWG entities; when Anne Richards stated that she was under the

impression that the cost of materials that could be identified as “promotional” and contained the University of West Georgia name (such as the medallions, newsletter, tribute booklets, programs, etc.) was covered by the UWG Foundation, Sharon indicated she would pursue that avenue.

**Honoring Retirees:** The 2019-2020 retirees have received their commemorative tribute booklets and medallions, and thank-you letters have been sent as appropriate. The tribute booklet for the 2020-2021 retirees is in the process of being completed, and medallions are being prepared as well.

A lengthy discussion regarding the status of the in-person annual reunion/meeting tentatively scheduled for October 9 took place with various concerns expressed: Kathryn Grams provided rates of infection both local and statewide and reminded us that Tanner is currently over capacity, that the rate of fully-vaccinated in Carroll County is among the lowest in the country, and that the Delta variant is more virulent than other COVID infections. Several council members identified non-UWG events that have been cancelled due to concerns about in-person meetings. We were also reminded that a number of our attendees would be 65+ and even if they opted to wear masks, the masks would still need to be removed to eat; no CC member wanted to consider a reunion with no food/drink. Given these concerns and out of an abundance of caution, the CC agreed that it was not in the best interest of the health and welfare of our attendees/community to hold an in-person reunion.

Meg Cooper will send out an email to the ARFS mailing list to announce the in-person cancellation, and she will contact the groups/speakers that were to be involved in an in-person reunion (the 2021 retirees, DineWest, Reservations Scheduling, University Police, President Kelly, and so forth) to indicate it will not be held. Instead, we will recreate the reunion as we did last year with an online/virtual acknowledgment of the retirees and probably a Zoom option for the annual meeting at which new coordinating council members are elected. Meg will contact Dr. Brad Yates, Dean of the School of Communication, Film, and Media, to see if any of his students would be willing to undertake the creation of a PowerPoint and narrative identifying the retirees and produce video welcoming statements from various UWG administrators and the statement from the Legacy Scholarship recipient.

**Newsletter Update:** Anne Richards indicated that the latest issue of the newsletter *The Rejuvenator* is now available.

**HRA/YSA Survey:** Meg Cooper and Anne Richards are still working on the follow-up with individuals who asked for assistance, and legal advice is being sought regarding a statement that would be a release of liability for advice given. We are still waiting for some information from the USG related to contacting some of the retirees who may need assistance. The final report is still pending. At the next USG Retiree Council meeting, Meg will ask about a sponsored peer-to-peer assistance option (with a liability-based disclaimer) to be offered in addition to the AON Referral Service already existing. In addition, there could be an option for ARFS to set up a local opportunity (such as one day a month) for those who need assistance.

**Other Business:** Copies were provided of various ways that ARFS members could contribute to the university and community including (1) submissions to the HelpWest Cookbook 2021, (2) donations to various scholarship awards/endowments including A Day and the ARFS Legacy Scholarship, and (3) donations of art work to the Rapha Clinic of West Georgia auction.

**Next Meeting:** No decision was made since this meeting would follow the ARFS annual meeting, which is now TBA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Taylor, Secretary