

RETIREE ASSOCIATION BOARD MINUTES
Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023
10:30 a.m., in-person, MAC Hall Vista Room

Attendance: President Dan Spielmann, Craig Lockard, Pat Przybelski, Kathy Pletcher, Chris Sampson, Chris Style, Ken Fleurant, Frank Madzarevic, Ken Fleurant
Guest: Brian Rammer

Update on UW-Green Bay developments

Alumni relations director Rammer updated board members on recent news from campus:

- Enrollment for fall 2023 moved UW-Green Bay near the head of the pack among UW System comprehensives. The University has grown rapidly at a time others are declining or level. The UWGB headcount enrollment topped 10,000 (10,038 to be exact) for the first time. The headcount number, driven to a great extent by co-enrollment of high school students in college courses, is up by 7 percent. Growth is not limited to high school students, however; the FTE count is up by 4 percent, and the number of matriculating freshmen has increased 10 percent. Contributing to UWGB success is the fact that the three satellite campuses, in Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Marinette, are performing relatively well especially in comparison to other former two-years that are struggling. Also notable and a positive sign is that the record headcount of 10,000+ includes about 2,100 students of color, another record. The universitywide Rising Phoenix program is credited for the gains.
- Also in the news is the prospect of a number of longtime majors and minors being de-emphasized or dropped entirely. A final decision from Academic Affairs and university leadership in consultation with campus is expected by February 2024. The three majors under evaluation are Economics (keep minor), Environmental Policy and Planning, Theatre and Dance (keep minor). The three minors under evaluation are International Environmental Studies, Geography and Physics.
- UWGB is currently looking at a potential budget deficit this fiscal year of up to \$2 million, hence the search for cost-cutting strategies including those affecting academic program array. Mass layoffs similar to those at UW-Oshkosh and several other state four-years will not be required, but the impact could be significant.
- Brian Rammer shared that nominations are still being accepted for the Outstanding Alumni Awards, both for recent grads (15 or fewer years since earning their degree) and distinguished alumni (16 or more).
- He said the Alumni Relations Office is working on a Milwaukee reception in association with the Nov. 30 women's basketball game with the Phoenix visiting the Panthers. Discounted tickets are available for the evening tipoff following a late afternoon/early evening reception at Three Lions Pub in Shorewood.

Election of Officers to one-year terms

Chris Sampson nominated the following slate of officers for the 2023-24 year and Craig seconded. All officers would be continuing their service with additional one-year terms, effective immediately:

- President – Dan Spielmann
- Vice President – Pat Przybelski
- Treasurer – Frank Madzarevic
- Secretary – Chris Sampson

The slate of officers was approved unanimously.

Update on recent and planned retiree events

President Spielmann said he is investigating January and February for potential dates of a women's basketball outing with a pre-game reception for Retiree Association members. Another event being explored would be a tour of the Richter Museum of natural history, most likely for next April or later. The recent tour of the STEM Center was well-attended (about 15 retirees and guests) and appreciated.

Future strategies for programming

Discussion returned on the topic of future programming/event strategy for the Retiree Association. Chris Style again shared her sense that topic-oriented, "A Conversation With..." programming might have the potential to reach larger (and new) audiences. A typical program might feature a facilitator/interviewer sitting down with both a current UWGB expert (faculty, staff or administrator) and a past/retired practitioner so that both future and historic aspects could be explored. Sessions could be recorded and archived as podcasts. There was Retiree board consensus that the idea is worth pursuing. Chris Style and Chris Sampson agreed to meet with Brian Rammer at a future date to sound out whether the Alumni Relations Office or University in general would see value in collaborating on what could be a recurring series with potential universitywide interest.

Future meeting

It was agreed that a January meeting of the Retiree Association board of directors would be a good idea, likely in the first week to 10 days of the new year. Details to follow.

Adjournment was moved and seconded and approved at about 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sampson
Recording secretary