

Minutes

USI Retirees Coordinating Council Meeting Thursday, March 17, 2022 Griffin Center, 2 pm

Members Present: Cindy Brinker, Craig Ehlen, Sandy Hatfield, Tim Mahoney, Phyllis Oeth, Connie Schnarre, Marlene Shaw, Linda Tribble

Members Absent: John Deem

Guests: Katie Ehlman, Baylie Peter

Call to Order: President Cindy Brinker called the meeting to order at 2 pm. She welcomed all members and guests to the Coordinating Council.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Tim Mahoney and seconded by Craig Ehlen to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022, meeting with one amendment. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Katie Ehlman, Professor of Gerontology, and Baylie Peter, Graduate Assistant, presented an informative program highlighting projects through the Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness. Several of these initiatives provide interdisciplinary education for USI students and offer opportunities for research and engaged partnerships. Working with the Indiana Department of Health, USI is involved in the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) and the Mid-America Institute on Aging (MAIA). GWEP is a 5-year, multidimensional initiative to improve the lives of people with dementia and merges primary healthcare with social services. One aspect of the GWEP is the Minka Learning Lab for Living Well, which helps aging individuals live in place. Several disciplines, such as engineering, biology, and social work collaborate on this project. Dr. Ehlman expressed interest in collaborating with the USI retirees' group and asked the Council to help communicate opportunities available to retirees through GWEP and MAIA.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of John Deem, the Treasurer's Report was presented as distributed to the Council via email:

Beginning balance 7/1/2021	\$4,655.41
Receipts	\$1,420.00
71 membership fees	
Disbursements	\$ 500.00
Expenditures for five 2021 Fall scholarships	
Ending balance 2/28/2022	\$5,575.41

Expenditures pending: Staff Council Giving Tree: \$75; Spring scholarships: \$500.

Craig Ehlen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; Marlene Shaw seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report:

Cindy Brinker reported that, after a delay due to other large university mailings, the Winter/Spring 2022 edition of the Vintage Times has been sent to all retirees. The newsletter was mailed, emailed and posted to the retirees' website. The new template was discussed; there was some concern about the readability of the font as well as the use of photographs as watermarks. Cindy will meet again with Creative and Print Services to see if improvements can be made.

Per university policy, only active employees have access to update the website; therefore, all changes to the retirees' site must go through Maggie Carnahan in the Foundation office. Cindy also reported that a dedicated email address, usi.retirees@usi.edu (USI Retirees Communications), will now be used to send information about events and other information, as well as reminders of dues.

OLD BUSINESS

Connie Schnarre and Cindy Brinker presented an update on the new retirees' Facebook group page. They have posted upcoming events and other information to communicate with retirees. This page will be administered by Connie and Cindy.

Five \$100 scholarships were awarded for the spring 2022 semester using an Excel formula to randomly select recipients. One recipient sent a message of thanks but offered to decline the award since she is changing her program of study to an associate degree program. After discussion, the Council decided to allow the recipient to keep the grant as she is still enrolled and classified as 'degree-seeking.'

The list of special events was discussed; these dates have been confirmed.

- **Virtual tour via Zoom of the Minka Learning Lab for Living Well:** Invitations to participate in the virtual tour of the Minka Learning Lab on March 30, 2022, from 1-2 pm, have been sent via email and posted on the Facebook page.
- **Waters-Graham Gallery Exhibit:** Retirees will be able to visit this exhibit at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center, Jasper Community Arts on June 15, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. CDT (Jasper is on EDT). Discussion was held about reserving vans for transportation and lunch in the Center. Plans are still being finalized for this event, as well as possible collaboration with the Alumni Office.
- **USI Retirees Annual Reception:** July 28, 2022, from 4-6 p.m. in the Griffin Center
- **Pizza Gathering at Turoni's on Main Street:** August 16, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Tour of the Evansville Wartime Museum:** September 19, 2022, from 1 – 4 p.m.
- **USI Retirees Annual Meeting:** November 17, 2022, from 4 – 6 p.m.

Discussion was held concerning communication to retirees about the Mid-America Institute on Aging conference typically held in August. Marlene Shaw also suggested an event to visit the student art show which will be held in April in the Pace Galleries in the lower level of the Liberal Arts building. She will explore this opportunity further.

Cindy is still working with Cindy Miller on the TouchNet web service for collecting dues. No bylaw change is required to establish the fiscal year for the retirees' group from July 1 through June 30.

NEW BUSINESS

Cindy proposed the Council continue exploring opportunities for collaboration with GWEP.

The Summer/Fall 2022 edition of the Vintage Times will focus on how retirees are giving back to the community. The planned distribution is prior to the reception on July 28.

Several retirees have been contacted to participate in the Engagement section of the USI Strategic Plan. Volunteers also are encouraged.

OTHER BUSINESS

Craig Ehlen reported there is a \$10 fee to visit the Wartime Museum and suggested paying this fee for participants from the retirees' treasury. Further discussion will be held at a later time.

The deadline for corrections to the USI Directory is June 30, with distribution of the finalized directory on July 28, 2022.

The next meeting of the Coordinating Council will be May 19, 2022, at 2 pm, in the Griffin Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Tribble, Secretary