

## **ULARP Report to the Faculty Senate 10 6 21**

**October 6, 2021**

**Elaine Wise, Professor Emerita and ULARP Representative to Faculty Senate**

The Board of ULARP (University of Louisville Association of Retired Personnel) met in person on 21 September 2021 in the University Club Board Room, with nine members present, three absent, and with invited guest, Brian Buford, Executive Director of University Culture and University Success.

The order of business included reports from the president, treasurer, newsletter editor, staff senate and faculty senate representatives as well as a special presentation and discussion of continuing concerns.

### **Presentation by Brian Buford:**

Brian informed the Board that the University is initiating several efforts to recognize retirees.

-- Recent retirees will receive a personal note of thanks from President Bendapudi. Her office is planning an annual event to celebrate retirees, perhaps a pre-game reception at a fall semester basketball game, and invites ULARP to co-sponsor. Believing that ULARP can use the event to introduce our association to newer retirees, the Board enthusiastically agreed. We will ask HR to send a representative to the event to help new retirees negotiate their potential U of L benefits. The Board will order a table banner and printed information cards for the event.

--The Board requested that the President's Office encourage university departments to find ways to celebrate and honor their retirees. Some units and departments are very attentive. Others not so much. Brian noted that his office may develop a guide for "off-boarding" retiring employees, similar to the guide they offer for "in-boarding" new employees.

--Due to her busy schedule, President Bendapudi has not yet been able to meet with the Board, but Brian will ask her to attend the November 2021 Board Meeting.

**Report on HR/ULARP Quarterly Meeting:** Sande Johnson-Byers reported on a recent meeting with several representatives of HR, noting that a request for representation on the Change Ambassador Network was not honored. Although the discount for Planet Fitness is not available, retirees who have United Health Care insurance can get free access. HR is supposed to send the Explore Your Benefits brochure this month. Optum Health will replace Discovery Benefits as our carrier for Retiree Benefits for 2022. Retirees await information about the Health Advocate.

**Report on the Newsletter:** Sande Johnson-Byers reported that an October newsletter will include information that was recently distributed by email in a handout to members, as well as information about the annual Holiday Luncheon and the return of Friday Coffee in the Pub. The newsletter will also include reports on meetings with HR, efforts to advocate for benefits, and a spotlight on the life and career of Professor Dario Covi, Art History, a long-time faculty member and retiree, who passed away in July at age 100.

**Dues:** The Board approved reinstating annual dues of \$15.00 a year (\$150 a lifetime) for 2022.

**December Luncheon:** Elaine Wise and Brenda Hart have negotiated with Aramark a menu for the annual holiday luncheon on 9 December 2021 at the University Club (deadline for reservations is 1 December) at a cost of approximately \$25.00 per person. Members and guests will be asked to pay \$15 per person. ULARP will subsidize the difference.

**Monthly Coffees:** Monthly coffee hours will resume on October 15 and November 12, at 10:00 am, in the Pub of the University Club, which has been reserved for ULARP. Coffee and assorted muffins will be served. ULARP is assuming the cost for these first two events, after which time the Board will decide how to move forward. The purpose is to provide a time for old and new friends to kibbitz over coffee in a casual atmosphere.

**Benefits Design Workgroup:** Mary Rising serves as our retiree representative to this group. The BDW is “an employee representative group formed to provide university employees an opportunity for input into the development of university benefit plan options (website).” Members of the BDW have obtained significant benefits knowledge during multiple educational sessions with UofL's benefits consultants.

**Other Issues:** Access to ULink is not available to retirees who maintain a U of L email address. Email access and timely communication remain matters of concern.

**A Personal Note:** As I assess my entry into the world of retirement from U of L after 55 plus years, I am very impressed by the continued interest in and dedication to the institution by the majority of our retirees. In fact, our retirees are a variation of alumni/ae. They have “belonged” and served here longer than almost any student and most administrators. Many of them are active in community projects as volunteers and activists, many attend university athletics contests and functions, and many still publish and/or engage actively in their specializations. Many are donors to the University and most are repositories of U of L history and wonderful lore. They are an untapped resource with much to give--as ambassadors of good will. Let us applaud their contributions and welcome their shared wisdom.