

UWG ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF (ARFS)
Coordinating Council Meeting MINUTES
Neva Lomason Memorial Library
January 24, 2025

Present: Micheal Crafton (presiding), Meg Cooper, Cecilia Lee, Ann McCleary, Jerry Mock, Patricia Pinkard, Anne Richards, Sally Roberts, Francie Taylor, Trish Wells

Guest: John von Eschenbach

Absent: Lisa Ledbetter, Clois Reese, Mike Renfrow, Ex-Officio Member MaKena Burns

Call to Order: Micheal Crafton called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05.

Comments from John von Eschenbach: John had requested some time to address the group, commenting that he had had a rewarding and joyful four years as a Coordinating Council member. He noted that, in contrast with his experiences with other committees, Council members did not have individual agendas, but focused on what we can do for UWG retirees who are depending on us. At the same time, he noted the frustration of this committee in not having an identity with UWG, leading to uncertainty, and encouraged the group to keep “knocking on the door.” His message was appreciated by the Council.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes: Micheal welcomed Council members to the meeting. Since it was the first meeting of the group voted in at the 2024 ARFS membership meeting, attendees introduced themselves. Minutes from the October 26, 2024 Reunion and ARFS Business meeting were approved (M- Ann McCleary, S – Anne Richards), with the addition of the slate of candidates that had been elected. Minutes of the July 12, 2024 Coordinating Council meeting will be distributed via email for review and approval.

Duties of Officers, Committee Assignments, and Representatives: Led by Micheal, the Council discussed various duties of the Coordinating Council and its members, with a focus on identifying personnel to take on those responsibilities.

- Anne Richards will maintain the ARFS listserv. (In discussion, Micheal mentioned that he could try to work with Blake Adams to improve our work with the listserv and website and our access to information. Exclusion of retirees from UWG Directory information is another issue.)
- Newsletter Committee – Anne Richards, Rolanda Farmer, Ann McCleary, and Meg Cooper will serve. We will get a group together to discuss moving forward with the newsletter.
- Nominating Committee – Some members are automatically part of this committee, while others are volunteers. We will discuss specifics at a later meeting when we are closer to the time this committee needs to be active.
- Widow/Widower/Surviving Partner Committee – This committee has not been active, in part because no one meeting the requirements to serve as its chair has come forward.

We coordinate with an on-campus group that has a similar purpose and also provide some informal assistance to bereaved retirees/partners.

- Scholarship Committee – Jerry Mock will serve as the chair of this committee. Micheal will work on setting up a meeting with the two of them and John von Eschenbach, the previous committee chair.
- Program/Events Committee – Meg will email out to see who might want to be involved this year and will include a breakdown of component tasks. This will be discussed further at our next Council meeting. At this point, the focus of this committee is on the annual retiree reunion and recognition of recent retirees.
- President's Duties – There is a long list of duties in the ByLaws, although there is a provision for delegation of duties, when appropriate. Micheal thought he could take on the duties listed, with the exception of maintaining the listserv (Anne will do this) and with support in preparation of the annual report.
- Participation in Related Organizations – Anne Richards shared information about the University System of Georgia Retiree Council (USGRC) and Georgia Higher Education Retiree Organizations (GA-HERO). She attends USGRC meetings to take notes, which are then posted on the ARFS website. Michael Crafton will become our representative; Anne will respond to the request from USGRC for names of new members. Anne is the secretary for GA-HERO. Both will keep up with these organizations and inform others as appropriate.

2024 Retiree Reception/Reunion

- Meg Cooper had prepared a report, which will be emailed to Coordinating Council members. Some highlights of the report are:
 - There were 27 known retirees in the time period covered, with three identified from the year before. The commemorative tribute booklet included the 24 we were able to contact who wanted to participate. Nine of those were honored in person.
 - Catering was funded by an anonymous donor. Some Council members also provided a variety of items themselves. Total costs are not known because we do not have information about all costs funded by UWG.
 - We had approximately 58 attendees. UWG's Special Collections and Alumni & Constituent Engagement were both well represented at the event.
 - Issues: There were some difficulties getting names and contact information from Human Resources and communicating with Alumni & Constituent Development regarding invitations, costs, registration, and some other aspects. The Trivia Contest helped interaction, but needs to be better planned if we do something similar in the future.
- Micheal may set up a meeting with Makena Burns and Allyson Brecht in Advancement to follow up some issues.
- What was discouraging in the big picture was the low number of attendees. There was some discussion of factors possibly related to this. This issue may get back to John von Eschenbach's call for a reintroduction of ARFS and retirees to UWG.

Draft of Annual Report: This document had been shared with Council members via email. The main thing still incomplete is information related to finances. A goal is to reflect how much retirees contribute financially to UWG, especially in relationship to the costs of university support for ARFS. However, there have been several different issues related to getting information for this year. Jerry Mock expressed some concern about detailed numbers (financial information) going into a public report. There was a suggestion that Council members and university administrators get detailed information, but that financial information that would be available to the public via the website be restricted and more general. Micheal Crafton will look into this matter.

Additional Discussion: There was additional discussion at the meeting involving the following aspects.

- Micheal Crafton meeting with Interim President Monga – Micheal will work on trying to set up a meeting with the general goals of getting the president’s thinking on how retiree groups could be involved with UWG, talking about who and what we are, and addressing the need for recognition and support. (Some specific issues had been shared with Micheal earlier and during this meeting.)
- Emeriti Policy – Anne Richards reported that the USG decided in April, 2023 that a change was needed in policies related to emeriti status. Here at UWG, there have been a lot of issues, including problems with who did and who didn’t receive emeriti faculty status. The draft of a policy is scheduled to be presented at the Faculty Senate meeting later today; Anne is attending and will share the policy with others. UWG has until March to decide what should be included in its policy, then April to produce and approve a final version. There was discussion about an ARFS/Coordinating Council subgroup providing input and also if there should be some attention to addressing people who had been “overlooked” under the previous UWG president.

Matters for the next meeting:

- Updated draft of annual report
- Tasks for Programs/Events Committee related to the annual reunion
- Building camaraderie within ARFS, perhaps through monthly get-togethers
- Continued discussion of how to “reintroduce ourselves.”
- Discussion of Micheal’s meetings with UWG personnel

The next meeting will be held on March 31st.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Cooper, Secretary