

**UWG ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF (ARFS)  
Meeting of the Coordinating Council, Campus Center 108.1**

**January 21, 2022**

**Present:** Meg Cooper (presiding), Michael Crafton, Jimmy Drew, Kathryn Grams, Anne Richards, Francie Taylor, John von Eschenbach, Nancy Watkins, and Diane Williamson. Ex-Officio Member: Lauren Niedringhaus, HR Liaison to ARFS.

**Absent:** Ross Miller, Frank Pritchett, Sally Roberts, Anita Thomas, and Alice Wesley.

**Introductions and Welcome:** Meg Cooper called the meeting to order at 10 am, and those present introduced themselves. A special welcome was extended to Michael Crafton and Nancy Watkins, new coordinating council members in attendance, and Lauren Niedringhaus, the Human Resources liaison appointed to ARFS and also serving as the Benefits Specialist working with prospective retirees.

**Human Resources Update:** Lauren Niedringhaus described her role in HR and shared her interest in providing greater service to UWG retirees and making every effort to reach out to the UWG community regarding those nearing retirement and those considering retirement within five years. She wants the Coordinating Council to provide feedback and a wish list as to what types of information would be beneficial to retirees as she compiles a comprehensive folder that would be given to each retiree. Perhaps ARFS could use *The Rejuvenator* to share the request for retirees to communicate with her about what was helpful versus not helpful to them when working with HR to transition to retirement. Her goal is to make the retirement experience more welcoming.

In addition, she will review the process by which those 62+ can attend classes for free and work to streamline the admission/application process, she identified Beverly Dittmer as the person who will be responsible for updating the ARFS website and adding the appropriate links, and she will update the process whereby the ARFS Coordinating Council is informed of retirees. Lauren also is reviewing the *Steps to Retirement* brochure to see if revisions are needed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Three sets of minutes (August 27, 2021 CC meeting; October 18, 2021 special called meeting of the CC; November 6, 2021 annual reunion and ARFS general meeting) needed to be approved. Anne Richards moved and Kathryn Grams seconded that the three sets of minutes be approved as one unit. The motion carried, and the three sets of minutes were approved.

**Review of 2021 Annual Reunion and 2022 Reunion:** All agreed that an in-person annual reunion/general meeting is the most preferred option but that the ZOOM version went fairly smoothly despite a couple of technical glitches. One suggestion was to put the meeting video on YouTube in a way not accessible to the general public. There was no immediate discussion of the 2022 annual meeting, but the hope is that it can be in-person and that the CC can receive

additional support from the University community with regard to available resources, a budget to cover expenses, and so forth.

**Coordinating Council Committees:** There are four standing committees and one ad hoc committee; CC members interested in serving on any of the committees should email Meg. (1) The Nominating Committee will gear up closer to the time to select candidates for the ARFS Coordinating Council. (2) The Programs/Events Committee is most active in the creation of the retiree tribute booklet and the planning of the annual reunion/general meeting. (3) The Scholarship Committee, headed by John von Eschenbach, involves asking for scholarship contributions, announcing pertinent information in *The Rejuvenator*, and reminding those retirees with eligible family members to apply for the scholarship. (4) The Widow/Widower/Surviving Partner Committee is currently inactive, but there is a widow/widower support group through the UWG library with which ARFS could conceivably partner.

The Newsletter Committee, which produces the ARFS newsletter, is the ad hoc committee headed by Anne Richards. The next issue will introduce Lauren Niedringhaus as our new HR liaison, provide updates on retirees and what they are doing, and include USG reminders on expenses reimbursable by the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) and how to request the reimbursements. CC member Frank Pritchett has volunteered to serve on this committee.

**Participation with Center for Public History:** Dr. Ann McCleary and Keri Adams, directors of the Center's University History Project, are interested in connecting with former UWG employees as "they hold the history and stories of the university." One specific project involves documenting and sharing Black experiences at UWG. Michael Crafton indicated an interest in working with Meg Cooper on Center projects as they relate to retirees.

**HRA/YSA Survey Follow-Up:** Meg Cooper and Anne Richards are continuing to work with individuals who indicated issues with reimbursements and/or health spending accounts. Some individuals have been referred to USG and/or Aon for assistance. There will be a final report summarizing comments/concerns in the near future.

**Possible Retiree Directory:** Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

**2020-2021 Annual Report:** The report is in progress and will be available shortly.

**Next ARFS Meeting:** The next meeting will be Friday, March 11, 2022, at 10 am. The location is to be determined.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Francie Taylor, Secretary