

UGARA Council Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2016

Attendance: Simon Aderibigbe, Jim Cobb, Lindsey Copus, Laura Dowd, Tom Eaton, Mark Eason, Freda Scott Giles, Travis Jackson, Marcus Jennings, Tom Lauth, Nancy McDuff.

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 A.M. Pres. Eason welcomed the board and members introduced themselves.

The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting had been electronically distributed. Tom Eaton moved and Tom Landrum seconded approval of the minutes. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report: In the absence of the treasurer, Mark Eason reported a previous balance of \$15,017. He will get an update. Up to \$2500 has been committed for the retirees health insurance survey. After the meeting, an updated balance of \$14,975.61 was confirmed.

Benefits: Travis Jackson reported that USG will slightly decrease dental benefits. The open enrollment period for AON and Medicare extends from October 15-December 15. Enrollment is passive; action is needed only if making changes. Our UGA open enrollment is from October 31-November 11. Premiums for enrollees under age 65 will increase 1.4-8%. Open enrollment information sessions will be held in Georgia Center Masters Hall October 17 and October 28 at 10:00 A.M.-noon and 1:00-3:00 P.M. There are not many changes. Question: Does AON advise current employees under age 65? Answer: Yes. Employees are using AON now; things are leveling out. Question: Should this organization do anything about providing information? Answer: USG is sending information. Mark noted that a link to the USG Medicare Retiree FAQ are on our Facebook page.

Mark requested written committee reports in the future.

USG Retirees Council: Tom Lauth, our immediate past president, will serve as UGA representative on the USGRC. The next meeting will be in Macon in October and Tom will report to us at the November meeting.

Other Business: Lindsey Copus informed us that the retirees reception is scheduled for April 25, 2017 in the Magnolia Ballroom at the Georgia Center. She is seeking a keynote speaker and requested suggestions. Some suggestions include: the new Interim Chancellor; a representative from the Athens Area Council on Aging; and the Executive Director of the Teachers Retirement System. She will bring up the subject again at the next meeting. The cost of the reception is supported through the President's Office.

Marcus Jennings asked who our communications chair is. Mark stated that we have no one listed; however, he has a note that Paul Kurtz is co-chair. Mark will talk further with him. Jim Cobb will take care of our Facebook page.

Old Business: New members were filled in on the health insurance survey. The survey is in the mail or close to being mailed to 600 randomly selected retirees. The return deadline is the end of

September. The cost is a little over \$8000. UGARA contributed \$2000; the College of Family and Consumer Sciences contributed 2000, the College of Public Health contributed \$2000, while Gerontology contributed over \$2000. The Carl Vinson Institute of Government has contributed over \$2000 in-kind staff assistance. A report may be available at the November meeting. A question was asked as to whether there was an email survey. It was thought that reliance on email might lead to a biased response. At present the USG system has approximately 5000 retirees.

New Business: There was a discussion of the time and location of future meetings as the Alumni Association staff meets in the conference room on the same day as our meeting until 10:30 A.M. There are also occasional conflicts with the Emeriti Professors' meeting. However, we decided to remain at the same location and begin future meetings at 10:30 A.M.

There was a discussion of whether we need to develop a policy on adding links from other sites to our web site. Major concerns include how interested we are in generating traffic for our web site and how difficult it would be to vet the sites that would request access through our site. The consensus was that we need a policy. Tom Landrum suggested that we should confine connecting links to those directly related to USG and UGARA. Mark asked Jim Cobb to chair and form a committee to formulate a policy. Tom Eaton volunteered to serve. A draft of the policy will be presented at the next UGARA meeting.

The next meeting will take place on October 10 at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda Scott Giles  
Secretary