IUPUI SENIOR ACADEMY ANNUAL MEETING

Georgia B Miller, Board Report for 2022-2023

June 15, 2023

Returning in 2022-2023 to ‘normal’ after the pandemic years, the Senior Academy continued to offer programs and meetings to attendees online but now have onsite and hybrid offerings again. Using the interconnectedness of the communications, membership, and program areas from President Wokeck’s Report last year, we started an Operations Committee to meet regularly between Board Meetings to coordinate and facilitate the work of the Executive Committee and the chairs of these working committees.

Incidentally, the Board and Operations Committee met on campus in Campus Center CE 266, the conference room that bears the Senior Academy name, since I understand we raised $25,000 for that facility.

The Operations Committee focused on supporting pursuit of the Senior Academy’s goals of a) engaging members, b) increasing membership, and c) expanding partnerships. More than 750 contacts were made with members and potential members via email inviting them to membership and/or events. Social media, monthly newsletters, and personal contacts were also used. Members have registered interest one or more of the 20 Interest Groups, for a total of 544 names across the range of opportunities to be involved. Beyond the 15 Senior Academy elected Board members, 17 additional members chose to be involved through service on committees (see Appendix).

While we will not have official numbers until the end of this month, current information shows the Senior Academy is made up of 299 members, of whom 233 are lifetime members and 65 are annual members. The Membership committee, led by Francia Kissel, has initiated several new outreach and follow up strategies to increase our membership numbers, focusing on first time and annual members, both of which have strong impact on our financial status. They are now using SalesForce and other data for planning and monitoring initiatives. You are encouraged to read that Committee’s full report, which is included in the Appendix, and is online with all other Committee Annual Reports.

The Communications Committee, under Sarah Baker’s leadership, monitors and keeps the SA online presence up to date. It provides easy access to the Member Center and Directory as well as opportunities to contribute to the SA Scholarships and the ongoing operation of the Academy. We hope you visit it regularly.

Under Russell Vertner’s leadership, we have worked this year to diversify our programming so that we may better appeal to our diverse faculty and staff retiree population. Programs have included two Meet and Greet opportunities (one each at Indianapolis Healthplex and Robin Run Village), Dr. Merv Cohen on Eagle Creek Park, a wine tasting event, three retirement specific programs with United Way, and smaller settings for Interest specific Groups, such as Walking (Gabrielle Bovenzi), Volunteering (Steve Kirchhoff), Book Club (Marianne Wokeck), and String Theory (Becky Porter and Sherry Queener). This group also established procedures for participating with IUPUI DEI programs. See more about all this in the Program Committee’s report in the Appendix.

The Spirit and Place Committee, chaired by Christine Fitzpatrick, developed a proposal for “Quiet as a Gateway” which has now been accepted to be part of IUPUI’s Spirit and Place events in the fall of 2023.

In addition to our ongoing relationship with Spirit and Place, others have been initiated or continued with the United Way Always United programs and volunteering opportunities, IUPUI Human Resource pre-retirement programs, the Alumni Association, IUPUI Schools and Units via the SA Liaison project, and IUB retiree groups, among others.

With Steve Kirchhoff’s leadership, the scholarship committee identified recipients for IUPUI Senior Academy scholarships in 2023.

Senior Academy General Scholarship Kirubel Ayalew

Senior Academy Returning Student Scholarship Corey Johnson

Senior Academy Freshman IPS Scholarship Josie Salinas

And our annual major attractions were very successful again this year: the Last Lecture presenter was long-time Senior Academy and IUPUI leader Sherry Queener. The selection committee, led by Jean Robertson, has identified this year’s recipient (which will be presented in November) and is already at work starting to identify next year’s recipient. The Holiday Celebration luncheon was again presented by the Ivy Tech culinary program students, and this year we also celebrated the Bepko Medallion being presented to Dr. Fran Quigley as part of this Holiday event. See the Appendix for more information on Christine Fitzpatrick and Sharon Holland’s committees’ work on these two activities.

The final program for this year is the Annual Senior Academy Meeting, which is being held at Eagle Creek Park. Initiating the 30th Anniversary of the Academy, this meeting will kick off the rest of the year’s programming with an interview with Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty Emeritus Bill Plater, under whose leadership the Senior Academy came into existence 30 years ago.

The Board conducted a strategy session in the spring; the narrative is/will be added to this report and posted online for the membership to read. We encourage everyone to read it and provide input and feedback to the 2023-2024 Board.

Finally, the Senior Academy has lost some colleagues and friends this year, as we do each year. I knew David Slocum, Lee Rand, and Linda Griffin who passed this year, but obviously the Board members do not know all our members, so we ask that you share feedback so we can share such information as a Memorial in the newsletter and/or online.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your President this year and look forward to an exciting 2023-2024 as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary. I have already told Becky what committees I am interested in being part of – I hope you will choose to be involved too.