

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Draft Minutes

Monday, January 6, 2025, 10 am on Zoom

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler	x	Richard Atkinson	x
Vice President, Deanna Hanson	x	Carol Barake	x
Secretary, Susan Brackenhoff	x	Darryl Freeman	
Controller, Dave Ferguson	x	Janet Heath	x
Past President, Ken Cross	x	Jackie Lamb	x
		Joel Leong	x

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
Communications & Marketing Richard Atkinson	x	Program Peter Mundy, Jackie Lamb	X x
Finance & Administration Dave Ferguson	x	Resource Dev. Mike Pidd	X
Forum (vacant)		Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	
Forum Co-Chair Janet Heath	x	Tech Co-Chair Sarah Ryan-Roberts	x
Membership Deanna Hanson	x	Tech Co-Chair Tom Nelson	x
Membership Co-Chair Roberta Gleeson		Volunteer Services Carol Barake	x
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	x		

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS, Dr. Marya Endriga, Dean	x	Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Weekly Update/Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux		Website Jennifer Kerr	
Recorder Jim Hodges		Office Manager Amber Korb	x
Assistant Controller Anne Putt	x	Board Liaison: Diana Gin	
Guest: Susan Wheeler	x	Guest: Sue McGinty	x
Guest: Kevin Collins			

1. Call to Order Welcome: President Deborah Seiler called the meeting to order at 10:00 am by wishing Happy New Year to all. Self-introductions were made for the benefit of our guests.

2. Approval of December 2, 2024 Minutes: Mike made the motion to approve; Dave seconded; passed.

3. President's Welcome: Deborah reminded all that our goal in the next year is to: increase the membership, increase membership diversity, recruit leaders with new ideas and new energy, and continue to improve our programming. News was received that Big History leader Ranny Eckstrom suffered a heart attack. Mike Agron will repeat his class on AI for program leaders on Friday, Jan 10,

4. Reports

a. **Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff** — reported the passing of two members: 1. Irene Stone, 104, passed away on December 5, 2024. She was a super advocate for the Renaissance Society. She was featured in a Spotlight in the Recorder several years ago around her 100th birthday. 2. John Caselli, former RS music instructor, died Dec 24, 2024. John enjoyed a successful career in media sales for 40 years. He worked for 12 years at KROY Radio in Sacramento, and then for 28 years at Channel 31 (later KMAX, later CBS). Condolences have been sent.

b. **Controller: Dave Ferguson** —said our finances are in good shape. As of today, we have \$173,005 in revenues; \$57,923 in expenses; and \$293,691 in our bank account.

c. **Office Manager: Amber Korb**—has been prepping for Orientation and Open House, finalizing the Spring Catalog to drop on January 13th and sending out physical letters and badges to new members.

d. **Sac State Liaison: Dr. Marya Endriga, Interim Dean of the College of SSIS** —is preparing for new student orientation Jan 31. She will attend Orientation and Open House. Dr. Endriga thanked us for the thorough minutes sent every month. Our minutes help the Sac State administration keep informed of our activities. Dr. Endriga's first grandchild will be born in June in Ireland.

5. Decisions and Discussion

a. **Membership dues increase**—Dave and Anne presented a proposal for a membership dues increase from \$100 to \$120 for full year and an increase from \$60 to \$70 for half year membership. The rationale behind the increase is that our membership numbers are not as high as they used to be therefore revenues have been affected. Dues have remained the same since before the pandemic. Expenses such as salaries, our lease and public relations expenses have gone up. Alternative methods of charging fees were discussed. Deanna made a motion to approve the increase in RS dues from \$100 to \$120 for full year and an increase from \$60 to \$70 for half year membership beginning June 1, 2025. Ken seconded the motion. The vote was favorable with no one opposed. RS has membership scholarship available for those who may need assistance paying dues.

b. **Program Leaders Workshop** — Mike Argon will repeat his AI presentation for program leaders on Friday, January 10, from 9:00 to 12:00.

c. **Nominations**—The committee is actively recruiting applicants with the enormous help of Deborah and Deanna. To date, one application for MAL has been received. Susan will be meeting with the candidate next week. The Vice President position has no applicants at this time. One of our new recruiting efforts can be seen in the Weekly Update. In the article about Board positions, there is a short 30 second video embedded encouraging members to apply. Deanna Hanson's smiling face can be seen in a December Weekly Update and Susan has done one for the first Weekly Update in January. Loretta Burdeaux has been extremely helpful in formatting this and giving suggestions for the wording.

D. Orientation & Open House—Joel will host a zoom committee meeting Wednesday, January 8 at 4:00 on zoom. Janet will be working with the tech cart for Orientation.

e. Data Mining Follow Up Deanna or Deborah—no new report

f. Capital Stage —No feedback yet as to their satisfaction with the promo code.

g. March for the Dream Walk— The Walk begins at 9:15 am January 20 at Sac City College Hughes Stadium. RS has participated in the past. Deborah, Joel, and Sue McGinty will march carrying our new RS banner. All are encouraged to participate.

h. MLK Jr. Dinner—RS has a full table for the January 25 event.

i. Help Desk Coverage /Food pantry—The ASI Food Pantry donation envelopes for the first Fridays of the month need to be redesigned with drop-off instructions.

6. Written Committee Reports

As submitted

Statement of no report: Technology, Resource Development, Forum, Scholarship, Volunteer Services

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

a. Membership – Deanna is working with several theaters to cultivate new partnerships. Capital Stage and B Street Theater would be great places to display our rack cards. Deanna and Susan will meet with Harris Center administration to explore partnership possibilities.

b. Program—Peter and Jackie—Peter agreed on a “short-term basis” to chair the program committee. His current agreements with UC Davis require him to step down from the committee in March. He suggested the Board examine the difficulty in retaining a full-time program chairman. Is it so big that people cannot manage it? Jackie said when a new person assumes chairmanship, they aren’t aware of all the ins and outs of the position. Perhaps having leads on various projects would help alleviate some of the work. Program committee is the most staff reliant committee. This is a tremendously important committee that needs a stable leader. In addition, RS will be needing new program leaders.

c. Resource Development – Mike reported committee activities are going well therefore no meeting in December was needed. The THANKSgiving promotion was especially strong initially and will end December 31. Mike displayed a tumbler mock up that he has been working on for several months. The tumblers are a thank you for a donation—they will not be sold. In the future, there may be t shirts available for donations as well. A discussion followed concerning taking donations at Open House.

d. Scholarship – Laurye is waiting for further scholarship information from Sac State.

e. Technology – Sarah/Tom are finalizing details to be ready for program registration. Marian Kile is working on assigning tech hosts and still needs seven more tech hosts. Marian sent out another email plea yesterday. Upcoming training opportunities are: New leader tech training –January 15. Tech update workshop on January 22. Technology training for teaching on campus—January 24. Sarah began working on the Tech Committee in 2021 and will be stepping down from Technology Co-Chair in June. Sarah found her own replacement in Kevin Collins who has already begun working. Sarah has made

stellar contributions to the committee and will remain on the committee but not as Co-Chair. Tom reported that they are well prepared for workshop on AI.

Janet serves as the lead for Forum tech hosts. Training for Forum tech hosts will be on January 31.

f. Volunteer Services – There is no written report this month. Carol is waiting to hear about status of the Golden Plate Award. Theater volunteers will use an online sign up. All gerontology classes will be online this semester. The interactions of the mentors with students will need to adjust to this online method. Significant questions remain since the classes will have more than just Sac State students. What is our new role? These questions need to be answered by the start of the semester.

g. Communications and Marketing –Rick has begun embedding short videos in the Weekly Update. Deanna 's recruiting video was the first one in December. The primary use of the videos would be to recruit volunteers for a variety of purposes. Discussion about committee work load and work expectations ensued. Some past committee chairs have written procedure (or protocol) manuals, but some do not. When available, the manuals should be referred to. A calendar of dates and expectations needs to be updated or written for every committee chairman.

h. Finance and Administration – Dave and Anne had no further info for the meeting.

i. Forum – Deborah reported that the Spring 2025 line up is strong. We need a new list for Fall 2025. Janet is co-chair responsible for technology.

NOTE: At the next Board meeting, the Forum Committee will move to the top with a subsequent rotation of committee reports.

8. Working Groups

Center for Small Business – The students have finished but will continue with the working group. The registration project was done entirely by students. Sarah wanted to look at the project results to see what future plans might look like. Tom said some coordination with CCE and UEI remains to be completed.

9. New or Urgent Business

10. Key Dates

- a. Jan. 3, Mail AAG during this week**
- b. Jan. 10 AI Seminar**
- c. Jan. 13 Spring Catalog posted**
- d. Jan. 17, Orientation & Open House**
- e. Jan. 20, March for the Dream**
- f. Jan. 21, Program Enrollment begins**
- g. Jan. 21, Spring Member Survey**
- h. Jan. 25, MLK Jr. dinner**
- i. Feb. 3, Spring Semester classes begin**

j. Feb. 7, First Friday and Help Desk

k. Feb. 14, Help Desk

11. Adjournment at 12:15 pm

Next Meeting: Monday, February 3, 10 am on zoom (the clubhouse is not available)

Submitted by Susan Brackenhoff