

Agenda
RS Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2022 (1:00 to 3:30 p.m.)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://csus.zoom.us/j/87411588566?pwd=VkRsVUdkcU5yN2NNNG1mRTVwclN4QT09>

Meeting ID: 874 1158 8566 / Passcode: 945159

(Attachment 1)

1.0 Opening

- 1.1. Call to Order
- 1.2. Introductory Remarks
- 1.3. Announcements (New Information)

2.0 Agenda

- 2.1. Additions to Agenda (New/Urgent Business)
- 2.2. Approval of Agenda [ACTION item – VOTE]

3.0 Updates/Reports from Officers, Staff, CSUS Liaison

- 3.1 Secretary's Report (Bob Benedetti)
 - Draft Minutes/Approval for February 14, 2022 Meeting (see **Attachment 2**)
[ACTION item – VOTE]
 - Condolences [David Anthony]
- 3.2 Controller's Report (Norv Wellsfry)
- 3.3 Office Manager's Report (Norv Wellsfry)
- 3.4 CSUS Liaison's Report

4.0 Specific Agenda Items

- 4.1 Dr. Donald R. Gerth Celebration of Life - Donation to the Gerth Memorial Scholarship Fund:** Deborah Seiler, Vice President and Nancy Findeisen, Resource Development Committee chairperson.
[ACTION item – VOTE]
- 4.2 RS Diversity & Inclusion Award 2022:** Debbie Martinez & Darryl Omar Freeman, MDCE Committee co-chairpersons.
[ACTION item – VOTE]
- 4.3 Social Media Update:** Lorraine Murphy, Communication & Marketing Committee co-chairperson.
- 4.4 RS Technology Workshop 2022:** Jeff Hendy and Sarah Ryan-Roberts, Technology Committee co-chairpersons.

5.0 Committee Updates:

- 5.1 Nominating Committee:** Barbara Davis-Lyman
- 5.2 Program committee:** Cindy Suchanek and Pam OBrien
 - *Recruiting new Program Leaders, Facilitators, and One-Time Presenters for the Fall 2022 semester!*
- 5.3 Technology committee:** Sarah Ryan-Roberts and Jeff Hendy.
- 5.4 Membership, Diversity, and Community Engagement (MDCE) committee:** Debbie Martinez & Darryl Omar Freeman

- *Spring 2022 midyear membership update*
- *U Mentor Program reenergized*

5.5 Communications and Marketing committee: Deborah Seiler and Lorraine Murphy

5.6 2022 Summer Speaker Program Working Group: Deborah Seiler

5.7 Resource Development committee: Nancy Findeisen

- *Annual Fall Sac State Student Scholarship solicitation letter campaign update.*

5.8 Finance & Administration committee: Norv Wellsfry

5.9 Scholarship committee – Laurye Brownfield

- *ASI scholarship selection software training/demo and rubric*

5.10 Forum committee: Tom Suchanek and Michele Finerty

- *Fall 2022 Forum speaker selection in process.*

5.11 Gerontology committee: Susan Brackenhoff

5.12 Announcements, Board Direction and Next Steps

6.0: Reports:

6.1 Technology Committee Report (Jeff Hendy) (see **Attachment 3**)

6.2 Membership, Diversity & Community Engagement (MDCE) Committee Report (Debbie Martinez & Darryl Omar Freeman) (see **Attachment 4**)

6.3 Scholarship Committee Report (Laurye Brownfield) (see **Attachment 5**)

7. New or Urgent Business

8. Adjourn

9. Next Board meeting: 1:00 p.m., Monday, April 11, 2022

Key dates:

- Apr. 18-May 6 Board elections online – Tellers’ Report
- May 6 RS programs end on Friday.
- May 9 Annual General Meeting on Zoom: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Monday
- May 16 RS monthly Board of Directors’ meeting (one week later)

Item: 3.1 Report of Secretary, Robert Benedetti

Date: March, 2022

Title: Secretary's Report, March 2022

Action: Information only

This past month I have received and verified only one notification of the passing of a member and therefore sent one condolence message. Amber Korb wrote the following summary obituary for David Anthony:

“Dave Anthony, long time Renaissance member and instructor, died late last year. He joined RS in the Spring of 2010. In the Fall of 2018 he co-taught ‘Shakespeare: More Shakespeare Plays’ with Tom Slakey, and in 2019 both Fall and Spring he co-taught ‘Fundamental Documents of American Democracy’ with David Feldstein.”

ITEM: 4.1

DATE: 3-14-2022

TITLE: Renaissance Donation to the President Emeritus Donald R. Gerth Memorial Scholarship Fund

ACTIONS: Discussion _____ Direction _____ Decision X

PREPARED BY: Deborah Seiler

Background and Purpose:

Dr. Donald R. Gerth, was the longest-serving president in the history of Sacramento State and he left a rich legacy of accomplishments and an indelible imprint on the campus he loved. He served as the university's 10th president from 1984 to 2003 and spent 45 years in the CSU system, displaying a remarkable commitment to students and the community.

When Dr. Margaret McKoane and Dr. Robert Heilman proposed and began the development of our lifelong learning program, Dr. Gerth was Sac State President at that time. He and Dean Robert Arellanes supported their efforts and agreed to give \$2,500 in seed money to get it started. In 1986, thanks to Dr. Gerth and others, the Renaissance Society at Sac State was born. Dr. Gerth and his wife Beverly continued their involvement with the Renaissance Society after he retired and contributed generously to the Renaissance Student Scholarship fund.

On Sunday, March 20 at 1 p.m., current Sac State President Robert S. Nelsen will host a Celebration of Life honoring Dr. Gerth who passed away on December 6, 2021, at the age of 93.

“He loved Sacramento State and the CSU. His impact on our campus and the system as a whole is unquantifiable. It was my honor to call him a friend, and I will miss his wise counsel. We have lost a hero and a giant of a man.” – Sac State President, Robert Nelsen

On the occasion of his celebration of life, Dr. Gerth's family and the university request a donation to the President Emeritus Dr. Donald R. Gerth Memorial Scholarship Fund in lieu of flowers.

This is an opportunity for Renaissance members to recognize, honor, and thank the late Dr. Gerth for his foresight and his generosity to our organization.

Recommended Action:

On behalf of the Renaissance Society of Sacramento State, approve a \$1,000 donation to the President Emeritus Donald R. Gerth Memorial Scholarship Fund. The donation amount will be drawn from our General Fund.

Presented by:

Nancy Findeisen, Chair, Resource Development Committee, and
Deborah Seiler, Vice President, Renaissance Society Board of Directors

ITEM: 4.2

DATE: 3-14-2022

TITLE: Diversity & Inclusion Award 2022 Nominee.

“The Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ)

ACTIONS: Discussion _____ Direction _____ Decision X

Background and Purpose:

The Membership, Diversity & Community Engagement (MDCE) committee is nominating the Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ), Dr. Manuel Barajas – Director to receive the Renaissance Society Diversity & Inclusion award for 2022.

The accomplishments of CRISJ embody the very spirit of the Diversity & Inclusion principles that created this award. Since December 2016, the Center has engaged with members of Renaissance Society, the CSUS Sacramento faculty and administration, and the greater Sacramento community presenting forums, Keynote speakers, panel discussions and Film screenings on the CSUS campus Their activities raised the awareness and consciousness about diversity and inclusion across many different racial and ethnic groups in our society.

CRISJ produces critical scholarship, community engagement, research mentorship, and academic programing for the university and broader community, engaging faculty, students, and community in a concerted and collaborative manner in improving the campus/community climate for equity and creating a stimulating intellectual environment and sense of belonging for both students and faculty from historically underrepresented backgrounds.

Below is the list of the latest activities of the Center:

Virtual Panel on “Violence Against Indigenous Women Across the Americas” March 8, 2022;
Keynote: Dr. Katie Valenzuela, City of Sacramento Councilmember, District 4

Third Annual Community Empowerment Faire “Dignity, Solidarity and Community Building” providing CSUS students with access to local community and business organizations. April 4, 2022

Established a “Building Justice” Podcast, which explores critical issues affecting California communities with hopes of creating a healthier and more just world

Awarding \$1000 “Empowerment” scholarships to financial need working class, first generation and historically underrepresented students who demonstrate civil service or social justice activity on/off campus

Sponsors twelve undergraduate students in a Research Mentorship program providing students an opportunity to participate in collaborative research. (2022)

Created the “Un/Equal Freedoms; Expressions for Social Justice” a multidisciplinary Virtual Art exhibition, May 2021

In the last five years organized and presented over 25 forums, guest speakers and video/film viewings on diversity, inclusion, and societal justice.

During the 2019 -2020 Academic year established the “Sister” city Academic program with underserved communities in the country of El Salvador

More at; <https://www.csus.edu/center/race-immigration-social-justice/>

Recommended Actions:

1. Approve the nomination of the Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ) by the MDCE committee of the whole
2. Upon board approval, the award will be ordered to be presented at the May Annual Meeting. Presented by: MDCE Co-Chairs Darryl O Freeman and Debbie Martinez

Presented by: MDCE member, Debbie Martinez

Attachment:

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

Purpose

Each year, the Renaissance Society will recognize an individual or group that has created, promoted, and enhanced diversity and inclusion.

The Renaissance Society recognizes the role of diversity and inclusion as being essential to the growth, structure, and continued success of any organization. It is articulated in our approved Statement on Diversity and Inclusion: “The Renaissance Society, a member of the Sacramento State campus, embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion in all facets: ethnicity, gender, and political persuasion. We do this as we learn, connect, and share with each other and our community. We are committed to eradicating the disease of racism and bias in our community, and we will promote the kindness and compassion necessary to build inclusiveness and trust in our community.”

The Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award is not given to an individual or group based on who they are, but because of their achievements and accomplishments. Candidates should be nominated based on service above and beyond the duties assigned to their positions. Nominees should also demonstrate how they have contributed to and enhanced the Renaissance Society’s goals of creating a more diverse and inclusive organization.

Eligibility

1. Candidates must be a current Renaissance Society member in good standing or a current CSU Sacramento faculty, administration staff member or student.
2. Self-nominations will not be considered.

3. If a member of the Renaissance Society Board is nominated, he or she will recuse himself or herself from the selection process.

Criteria

Criteria for selection are as follows and may include a broad range of criteria from inclusion-centered initiatives: efforts to support diversity recruitment of Renaissance Society members, speakers, Board members and staff. Teaching that expands and embraces our understanding of inclusiveness; multicultural programming or related initiatives; community outreach activities; or a host of other possibilities that enhance diversity and inclusion. Nomination statements should focus on the following criteria:

- The extent to which the candidate's activities have promoted an environment that is welcoming, supportive and nurturing of cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, and other human differences.
- The extent to which the candidate's activities have contributed to raising awareness and consciousness about diversity and inclusion within the context of the Renaissance Society's mission and for the greater good of the CSU Sacramento community.
- The extent to which the candidate's activities have had or will have an impact on the Renaissance Society in terms of diversity and inclusion.
- The candidate models behavior that promotes diversity and nourishes acceptance of individual differences.
- Strives to enhance academic, employment or community relations among people who are different.
- Integrates diversity concepts and values into Renaissance Society seminars, lectures, activities, events and policy or community service.
- Develops methods for increasing and valuing diversity among Renaissance Society members, CSU Sacramento students, faculty, staff, or local businesses/associations.
- Maximizes opportunities to achieve diversity.

The Award: An engraved, personalized memento that reflects the contributions to diversity for which it is given.

Frequency of the Award: One award annually or as deserved at the discretion of the MDCE committee.

Nomination Procedure: A nomination for the award may be submitted by any Renaissance Society member. Members of the Renaissance Society are encouraged to nominate one or more candidates.

Includes: Nominee full name(s), address, biographical information and a detailed yet concise description of how the nominee meets the eligibility criteria.

Nomination Deadline:

Award Committee Membership: The MDCE committee or a sub-committee of the MDCE appointed by the chair of the MDCE.

Method of Selecting Award Recipient: The MDCE Committee or sub-committee selects a candidate from the list of nominees for the award and submits the selected nominee to the Renaissance Society Board for approval.

Presentation of the Award: The award will be presented at a suitable event in the Spring semester.

Updated 3/1/2022

ITEM: 4.3

DATE: 3-14-2022

TITLE: Social Media Update: Lorraine Murphy, Communication & Marketing Committee co-chairperson

ACTIONS: Discussion X **Direction** **Decision**

Information Only

Background and Purpose: The Communications & Marketing Committee was revived in the Spring of 2020 by the appointment of Deborah Seiler as the new committee chairperson. Historically the primary Renaissance Society (RS) communication vehicles had been The Recorder monthly newsletter, the RS website, the Wed. Weekly Update message via Constant Contact, the semiannual RS Program Catalog, and the RS Annual Report. As the committee structure was rebuilt an internal RS Facebook page was created in the Spring of 2020 by RS volunteer Maryellen Burns in the first RS venture into social media.

All these traditional RS communications vehicles are internally focused on existing RS members. The one exception is the RS website. But the question is: How do prospective members find this website? The committee discovered through surveying that the RS external communications have been driven by existing RS members sharing their passion and excitement for the Renaissance Society with their friends, family, and acquaintances.

In the Fall of 2020, a group of students from Sac State Lecturer Dr. Kevin Lovelace’s Center for Small Business, Business Communications course (MGMT 102) reviewed the various RS communications vehicles. Students were challenged to identify ways that RS could expand our external communications methods. The students recommended that RS establish a Twitter account to identify new external partners and prospects for expanding demographics to include people in their 50’s who are retiring and might be interested in joining the Renaissance Society.

New Communications & Marketing co-chairperson and Recorder newsletter co-editor Lorraine Murphy established a RS Twitter account and has been experimenting with posting messages and attracting new followers. Meanwhile RS member volunteer Kathy Hart has established a new RS public Facebook page.

The purpose of this presentation is to share the latest in social media improvements and how Board members can help support this initiative to create new external communications vehicles to attract new members and regrow our RS membership.

Recommended Actions: Listen, ask questions, and consider how you and your Renaissance Society committee can help support our use of social media to expand our external communications for recruiting new members.

Presented by: Lorraine Murphy, Communication & Marketing Committee co-chairperson

Attachment:

MS Power Point slideshow to be sent following the Board meeting.
Facebook update by RS Facebook administrator Kathy Hart

On Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 3:39 PM Kathleen Hart <kathleen-hart@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Deborah and Ken:

Feel free to share this with appropriate RS leadership and committee members.

I was asked to be an admin for this group Facebook page shortly after it was created. RS did not have a public-facing Facebook page. I post information from the Wed RS email on this group page as well as CSUS posts and other events or opportunities in our community that members might find interesting. Take a quick scroll down the page to see the type of posts for this group.

It might be a good idea to have more input from leadership regarding the purpose of this group page now that we do have a public RS Facebook page. I welcome input and suggestions that will improve the effectiveness of this group page.

Thanks, Kathy

Recap of Renaissance Society Private Facebook Group (information from the Facebook group page)

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/renaissancesocietysacramento>

About this group

The Renaissance Society provides opportunities for lifelong learning and community engagement for older adults, in partnership with California State University, Sacramento and other community partners. RS has two Facebook groups -- one that is private -- this one. And another for the public. Hundreds of seminars, talks, walks, cultural and social activities are presented every year by our peers and regional experts. Once held primarily on Fridays and Saturdays on the CSUS campus, we've expanded in recent years to local libraries and senior residence centers. We, like many others, are now going virtual for a while, but have not given up our commitment to the ASI Food Pantry, which provides funding for food insecure students, scholarships, mentoring programs and other service to the community.

Visibility

Private

Only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

Visible

Anyone can find this group. (this means if someone searches, they would 'find' the group but in order to see posts, they would ask to join the group and must be approved)

Group history

Group history shows when this group was created, as well as changes to its name. You can use Group history to see whether a group's purpose has changed over time.

Changed name to The Renaissance Group Aug 29, 2021

The group The Renaissance Society: Sacramento State was created Apr 28, 2020

Members

644 as of 2/24/22

Group rules from the admins

We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.

Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.

Membership questions

Question 1

Are you a current member of The Renaissance Society at CSUS?

Yes

No

Group rules

Ask people to agree to group rules.

NOTE: I have approved requests from people who are nonmembers as long as they agree to the rules. If requests from people do not respond to the questions, I do not add them to the group.

ITEM: 4.4

DATE: 3-14-2022

TITLE: RS Technology Workshop 2022

ACTIONS: Discussion X Direction Decision

Information Only

Background and Purpose: The Renaissance Society (RS) Technology Committee was formed in 2015. For the previous three decades all member and program registrations were manual. New and renewing members mailed or dropped off written applications to the RS office with checks. The applications were processed by RS office staff members. Program registration was completed by phone and email with individual volunteer program leaders. RS membership had almost doubled in the previous decade and this twentieth century manual operation was becoming unwieldy and unmanageable. RS program leader Ivy Hendy shared her frustration with her spouse Jeff. Ivy asked Jeff: What can be done about this antiquated manual program registration system? Jeff had his marching orders!

Technology Committee chairperson Jeff Hendy and member Tom Holt both had decades of experience in the tech industry in Silicon Valley and around the world. Empowered by the RS Board of Directors, Jeff and Tom approached the Sac State College of Continuing Education (CCE) to inquire about and negotiate support in designing a simple, user-friendly custom RS membership and program registration system.

Today's presentation will share the evolution of the Technology Committee support and where RS is after eight years. The call to action encourages committee chairpersons to consider how RS can improve our use of technology and automation to be more efficient and effective for continuous improvement within the available human and financial resources.

Recommended Actions: Listen, ask questions, and consider how you and your Renaissance Society committee can be more efficient and effective in using technology and automation to streamline our RS volunteered powered programs, services, and operations.

Presented by: Jeff Hendy and Sarah Ryan-Roberts, Technology Committee co-chairpersons.

Attachment: MS Power Point slideshow to be sent following the Board meeting.