

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING AGENDA

March 6, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler		Kevin Bray	
Interim Vice President, Susan Brackenhoff		Laurye Brownfield	
Secretary, Bob Benedetti		Michele Finerty	
Controller, Norv Wellsfry		Darryl O. Freeman	
Past President, Ken Cross		Kathryn Tobias	

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
C&M Lorraine Murphy		Program Kathryn Tobias	
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry		Resource Dev Mike Pidd	
Forum Michele Finerty		Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	
Gerontology Susan Brackenhoff		Technology Jeff Hendy	
LRP Ken Cross		Technology Sarah Ryan-Roberts	
MDCE Debbie Martinez		Univ. Services Pat Paul	
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff		Univ. Services Paula Connors	
Program Pam O'Brien			

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Website Jennifer Kerr		Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Website Loretta Burdeaux		Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS /Dean Dianne Hyson	
Recorder		Office Manager, Amber Korb	
Guest:		Liaison Ranny Eckstrom	

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. President's Welcome Message.**
- 3. Approval of February 6, 2023 Minutes (attached)**
- 4. Reports**
 - a. Secretary: Bob Benedetti
 - b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry
 - c. Office Manager: Amber Korb
 - d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson College of SSIS

5. Decisions and Discussion:

- a. Norv's Budget Workshop
- b. Warren Bonta Diversity & Inclusion Award for 2023
- c. Slate of Candidates for 2023-2024
- d. Discussion of SWOT Analysis
- e. Election Procedures
- f. Volunteer Services Committee
- g. Report on Committee Overviews

6. Written Committee Reports

- a. Statements of No Report: Communications & Marketing; Ushering

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Long Range Planning – Ken
- b. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie
- c. Nominating – Susan
- d. Program – Pam and Kathryn
- e. Resource Development – Mike
- f. Scholarship – Laurye
- g. Technology – Sarah
- h. University Services – Pat and Paula
- i. Communications and Marketing – Lorraine
- j. Finance and Administration – Norv
- k. Forum – Michele
- l. Gerontology – Susan

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

8. Working Groups

- a. Summer 2023 Program WG update

9. New or Urgent Business

10. Key Dates

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| March 20 – 24 | Spring Break - campus closed |
| March 31 | Cesar Chavez Day – campus closed |
| April 10 – May 5 | Elections |
| April 20 | Green and Gold Gala |
| April 21 – 22 | Give Sac State Day |

11. Next Meeting:

- April 3, 10 am Zoom

12. Adjourn

ITEM: 5 b
DATE: March 6, 2023
TITLE: Warren Bonta Diversity & Inclusion Award Nominee for 2023
Erik Ramirez, Director Equity and Affinity Centers, Sac State

ACTIONS: Discussion _____ Direction _____ Decision X

Background and Purpose:

The Membership, Diversity & Community Engagement (MDCE) committee is nominating **Erik Ramirez, Director, Equity and Affinity Centers in the Division of Student Affairs at Sac State** to receive the Warren Bonta Diversity & Inclusion award for 2023. Erik was recently promoted to this position after being the Coordinator of the Dreamer Resources Center on campus since 2019. It was in that capacity that he started working with the Renaissance Society. When the late Warren Bonta approached Erik about a partnership, he was immediately excited about the idea. The Latinx community has a long tradition of integrating “abuelos”, the elders, into the lives of its younger generations. Erik immediately recognized the rich experience Renaissance members could bring to the students, many, so far away from their own family. He was instrumental in helping Renaissance get connected to the U Mentor Program, Erik welcomed Renaissance members into the Dreamer Resource Center to learn more about it and connect with the students. He arranged several mixers for our members to meet students for the purpose of creating mentoring relationships. Erik organized and taught Ally Training workshops and invited Renaissance members to participate. These workshops augmented our experience with knowledge about the law and policies around DACA and the challenges facing these students today.

Erik also has a compelling personal story. As an undocumented elementary school student in Santa Barbara County, Erik was determined to excel in his studies, attend college, and “show the world that I deserved to be here.” However, his childhood dreams had to wait 10 years, until the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) took effect. Erik completed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Sac State and found a professional home on campus in Student Affairs.

Now he oversees several of Sac State’s Equity and Affinity Centers, including the Serna Center, the Multi-Cultural Center, the PRIDE Center, and the Women’s Resource Center. At the same time, he is also working on his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership.

Renaissance is currently partnering with Erik on our Summer Series on Celebrating Cultural Diversity and we look forward to more collaborations in the future.

ITEM: 6
DATE: March 6, 2023
TITLE: Nominating Committee Report
Proposed Slate of Renaissance Society Officers for 2023-2034

ACTIONS: Discussion X Decision X

CHAIR: Susan Brackenhoff

Committee Members: Barbara Davis-Lyman and Shari Lowen

The Nominating Committee has completed the recruiting, information sharing, interviewing and selecting the 2023-2024 slate of officers and members-at-large for the Renaissance Society. We recommend the following positions be filled:

New Officers:

Vice President Debbie Martinez

Secretary Susan Brackenhoff

Two Year Terms for MAL:

Carol Barake

Janet Heath

Frank Martinez

One Year Term for Vacant MAL:

Dale Good

Special thanks are extended to Deborah Seiler who worked tirelessly recruiting candidates

ITEM: 5c
DATE: March 6, 2023
TITLE: Election Procedures

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

Background and Purpose

Elections for Board Officers and Members at Large (MAL) are not well-understood by many Renaissance members and the process has changed over time.

Past elections took place at a hotel which attracted fewer than 150 attendees and required payment for the lunch. For these reasons some members considered the process to be un-democratic. The 2020 transition to online voting attracted considerably more members.

Past announcements about MAL positions did not clearly specify desirable qualifications. There were no announcements about officer positions and no qualifications were specified. Recent messages to members have been more informative about both officer and MAL positions and need to be standardized.

This document proposes clarifications and changes to the procedures, without necessitating amendments to the By Laws and Standing Rules. A list of the major points and a recommendation for a future By Law amendment are presented at the end of this document.

Current By-Laws

Article VI: Officers and Members-At-Large

- A. The elected officers shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary and Controller.
- B. There shall be six Members-at-Large elected by the membership to serve on the Board of Directors.
- C. The officers and members-at-large shall be elected by ballot at the May general meeting of the membership. If a single slate is presented, and there are no nominations from the floor, voting may be by a show of hands. All elected officers shall assume their positions on the succeeding July 1st. The term of office for President, Vice President, Secretary and Controller shall be for one year and/or until successors are elected. The term of office for the Members at-Large shall be for two years and/or until successors are elected.
- D. If deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, voting on measures or candidates may be conducted by mail. Ballots must be returned by at least one-third of the membership to be

considered a valid election. Procedures for a mail ballot shall conform to those set forth in the Society's parliamentary authority.

- E. Vacancies in the positions of the elected offices shall be filled by appointment of the President, with the approval, by majority vote, of the Board of Directors. In the case of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of President and Vice President, the Board shall elect, by majority vote, a President Pro-Tem to serve until the end of the current term.

Proposed Election Procedures

Officers: President, Vice President, Controller, Secretary

Term: one year with an unlimited option to run again.

General Candidate Qualifications for Officers: service as a MAL or Committee Chair or Co-Chair. Significant service on community boards of directors or experience in higher education may be considered. A past reprimand by the Board of Directors is unqualifying

Qualifications for President and Vice President: Demonstrated leadership abilities; active listening and communication skills; strong work ethic; ability to work with other Board members; understanding of RS Bylaws and Standing Rules.

Qualifications for Secretary: Service as a seminar leader for two or more semesters or one year of service to Renaissance.

Qualifications for Controller: Knowledge and experience in handling financial records. Service as a seminar leader for two or more semesters

Application:

(a) Vacant Positions: full written application and interview by the Nominating Committee (this also applies to an officer seeking a different office)

(b) Renewing Officers: no application or interview unless a competing application is submitted.

If multiple applications are received, the Nominating Committee reviews applications and conducts interviews.

Members at Large: Six members

Term: Two years. Members at Large may re-apply and interview for a subsequent term.

Candidate Qualifications: Service to Renaissance and aptitude as determined by the Nominating Committee. A past reprimand by the Board of Directors is unqualifying.

Desirable Qualifications/Activities: Some examples of desirable, but not mandatory qualifications include having participated in or chaired any of the standing committees; having helped with Orientation and Open House; having organized social functions; having solicited new ideas to improve the organization; having suggested seminar topics and speakers for Forum presentations; having participated in professional or community organizations outside Renaissance; and being relatively new to Renaissance.

Announcements:

At least three announcements shall be made in the Weekly Update and at least one announcement in the monthly *Recorder* prior to the application deadline. An announcement should also be made on the website home page for a limited time and should be repeated in seminar classes. Announcements shall include but not be limited to:

- Number of vacant officer positions
- Number of MAL positions to be filled
- Terms and Qualifications for officers and MALs
- Deadline for application (self-nominations accepted)
- Election timeline and announcement of results
- Contact for further information

Prior to ratification by the membership, the slate of officers and MALs, with photos and descriptions shall be published in the *Recorder* newsletter.

Nominating Committee Process:

By Laws, Article IX (C): “The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three members, appointed by the President no later than the month of March, and approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors.”

Standing Rules: The Nominating Committee shall: “Recruit, screen and interview candidates for the purpose of recommending a slate of eligible candidates to stand for election as officers or as Members-at-Large of the Renaissance Society Board of Directors. The committee’s proposed slate shall be presented to the Board for its review, assessment, and approval prior to submittal to the general membership for a vote.”

In Practice: The Nominating Committee:

- seeks out promising members to fill positions and informs them of the position, qualifications, and timeline for application
- develops questions and conducts interviews for contested or vacant officer positions and MAL positions
- recommends a slate of officers and MAL candidates to the Executive Committee

Timeline for elections:

- Late February: Nominations from membership received and candidates submit applications
- Late February and early March: Review of applications by Nominating Committee
- March: Interviews by Nominating Committee
- Early April: Nominating Committee sends slate to the Executive Committee for its approval; Executive Committee presents slate to Board for approval
- Early April: Board appoints tellers from Technology Committee and Office staff
- Early April: Tellers prepare online ballots and paper ballots for members who are not online
- Mid-April to Early May: Members vote online and mail in paper ballots, if applicable
- Late May: Tellers compile/ announce results to Board
- June 1st: Board announces results of the election
- July 1st: Board officers and MALs assume duties

Vacancies:

Filled by the President for the remainder of the term, per current By Laws: “Vacancies in the positions of the elected offices shall be filled by appointment of the President, with the approval, by majority vote, of the Board of Directors. In the case of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of President and Vice President, the Board shall elect, by majority vote, a President Pro-Tem to serve until the end of the current term.”

Significant changes:

- clarifies that officer positions have one-year terms but can be contested if they run again
- specifies qualifications for officers and MALs, including a provision for disqualification
- specifies that a MAL may seek re-election by going through the nominating process
- clearly allows anyone qualified to run for an officer position
- specifies required announcements
- includes a timeline, including preparation of ballots and announcement of results

Future Action:

- As part of a technical clean-up package, amend By Laws to change “election” to “ratification” to better describe the process

Recommended Action

Review and approve these procedures.

Presented by:

Deborah Seiler, President

ITEM: 5d
DATE: March 6, 2023
TITLE: Volunteer Services Committee
ACTIONS: Discussion _____ Direction _____ Decision X

Background and Purpose

Renaissance Society By-Laws provide for standing committees to be established by the Board of Directors. Chairpersons of standing committees are appointed or reappointed by the newly elected Renaissance Society president for one-year terms, beginning July 1 through June 30.

The Standing Committees are: • Administration and Finance • Communications and Marketing • Forums • Gerontology • Long-Range Planning • Membership, Diversity and Community Engagement • Nominating • Resource Development • Scholarship • Seminars/Speakers • Technology • University Services

Two of these standing committees, Gerontology and University Services, have a relatively narrow focus and short duration. And their membership is limited to a chairperson or two co-chairs who recruit volunteers. As stated in the By-Laws, the Gerontology Committee serves as the liaison to the Sac State Gerontology Department and assists it to recruit member volunteers for Gero 121 classes each semester. Until recently, this involved recruiting 80 mentors for the

fall semester and 40 for the Spring semester. There are now two Gero 121 classes in the spring semester, so the number of volunteers for both semesters is about 80.

The University Services Committee supports the Sac State Theater and Dance Departments by recruiting volunteer ushers for student productions. These productions shut down due to COVID in 2020 and 2021 but are now back to two productions per semester. Because the term “University Services” is not well understood by many members, the current co-chairs refer to themselves as “Ushering Coordinators.”

Other volunteer efforts are not included in any committee. These include services to the ASI Food Pantry, the Arboretum, the UMentor program, and the Physical Therapy and Psychology departments. It is possible Sac State program and/or department leaders will approach Renaissance members with additional volunteer requests in the future.

Recommended Actions

Eliminate the Gerontology and University Services committees and include their functions within a new committee that addresses all volunteer activities.

Create a Volunteer Services Committee to oversee all volunteer activities including but not limited to: Gerontology; Ushering; ASI Food Pantry; Arboretum; UMentor Program; Physical Therapy; and Psychology.

This proposal would slightly reduce the number of Board members and incorporate the full range of volunteer activities into a single committee.

This proposal would require the President to appoint a chairperson for the new committee.

Presented by:

Deborah Seiler, President