

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING AGENDA

September 12, 2022

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

Committee Chairs	Present		
C&M Lorraine Murphy		Program Kathryn Tobias	
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry		Resource Dev Nancy Findeisen	
Forum Michele Finerty		Resource Dev Mike Pidd	
Gerontology Susan Brackenhoff		Rules Bob Benedetti	
LRP Ken Cross		Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	
MDCE Debbie Martinez		Technology Jeff Hendy	
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff		Technology Sarah Ryan-Roberts	
Program Pam OBrien		University Services Pat Paul	
		University Services Paula	

Liaisons/Guests	Present		
Website Jennifer Kerr		Weekly Update Rita Pasillas	
		Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS Dean Dianne Hyson	
Recorder Lorraine Murphy		Officer Manager, Debra da Costa	
Guest: Dr. Glennah Trochet			

1. **Call to order**
2. **President's Welcome Message.**
3. **Approval of August 8, 2022 Minutes (to be attached) (vote)**
4. **Reports**
 - a. Secretary: Bob Benedetti (attached)
 - b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry
 - c. Office Manager: Debra da Costa
 - d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS

- e. Dr. Glennah Trochet, visiting member

5. Decisions and Discussion:

- a. Review Scholarship Committee item (attached)
- b. Establish goals for the 2022-2023 Board of Directors, continuing
- c. Discussion/observations of first week of Fall program

6. Committee Reports

- a. Statements of No Report: Nominating
- b. Committee Meeting Schedule

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

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

NOTE: at the next Board meeting, Scholarship will move to the top with subsequent rotation of committee reports.

8. Working Groups

- a. Events WG
- b. Database WG

9. New or Urgent Business

10. Key Dates

September 6	Fall programs begin
September 18`	“Back to School” Party – Arden Park – Sunday
November 11	Veteran’s Day, campus closed - Friday
December 2/9	Fall programs end – Friday

ITEM: 5 a.

DATE: September 12, 2022

TITLE: Change to the Scholarship Committee Specification and Process

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

Background and Purpose

The purpose of this item is to inform the RS Board of a change to the Scholarship Committee Specification and process. This does not change the intent of the scholarship selection criteria but rather how the selection criteria is applied.

Background - Last year the Scholarship Committee's priorities were to add structure around the committee processes. The CSUS Scholarship Department's priority was to have our team use the CSUS system. Both these goals were achieved as the team successfully transitioned to use the system and we developed a rubric to assist our reviewers to score the applications more objectively.

We realized there were a couple of opportunities to make the process more efficient and fairer. This will require updating the RS Scholarship Specification. In the past, the Committee has scored on four criteria and this will not be changed:

1. Personal Achievements
2. Challenges
3. Financial Need
4. How their field of study will be useful to members of the Renaissance Society

While working with CSUS staff, we discovered a way for the system to determine financial need based on the student's eligibility for a Pell Grant. This would be the most objective way to determine the need versus our reviewers trying to interpret the need in the student's

application. Because of this modification, a change is required to the RS Scholarship Specification. We also determined we could use data related to personal achievements that the students already complete in the CSUS application. This leaves just two pieces of information that the student will need to provide related to Challenges and Field of Study. This can be achieved through two supplemental fields that the student will complete. This will help the students as they will not need to write an essay and it will help the scholarship committee as we review the information. Last year 26 students wrote an essay but failed to put information about their field of study. As a result, they received no points in this area and did not get considered for a scholarship. We have modified the language to hopefully correct this information. Below are the changes we want to make.

We have alerted and will be working with CSUS to modify the Scholarship Specification and make changes to the Scholarship System. We are working to get this all done by early October.

Renaissance Society Scholarship Specification changes 8-30-22

Financial Need Required:

Current language

Financial need may be considered but not required

Revised language

Yes, Student must be eligible for Pell Grant

Other Specific criteria

Current language

Students must complete and submit an essay, maximum of 1000 words describing their personal achievements, challenges, financial need, and most importantly how their field of study will be useful to members of the Renaissance Society. You may visit their website for more information at (<https://www.csus.edu/college/social-sciences-interdisciplinary-studies/renaissance-society/>). This essay is crucial and essential to the selection process.

Revised language

Students must be eligible for the Pell Grant to receive this scholarship. In addition, they must complete the CSUS application where their personal achievements will be reviewed when awarding this scholarship. They must also complete the two sections of supplemental information, maximum of 300 words each, related to challenges they have faced and most importantly how their field of study will be useful to members of the Renaissance Society.

The Renaissance Society is an organization affiliated with CSUS that promotes lifelong learning and community engagement for older adults. Our website provides more detailed information on the Renaissance Society mission and activities. (<https://www.csus.edu/college/social-sciences-interdisciplinary-studies/renaissance-society/>)

A requirement for this scholarship is to provide information on how the applicant's field of study will benefit older adults. This information is essential to the selection process.