

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Approved Minutes

Monday, April 7, 2025, 10 am

Zoom

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

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
Communications & Marketing Richard Atkinson	x	Program Co-Chair Jackie Lamb	x
Finance & Administration Dave Ferguson	x	Program Co-Chair Ralph Paladino	x
Forum Co-Chair Mari Shine	x	Resource Development Mike Pidd	x
Forum Co-Chair Janet Heath	x	Scholarship Co-Chair Laurye Brownfield	x
Membership Co-Chair Deanna Hanson	x	Scholarship Co-Chair Sue McGinty	x
Membership Co-Chair Susan Wheeler	x	Tech Co-Chair Sarah Ryan- Roberts	
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	x	Tech Co-Chair Tom Nelson	x
		Volunteer Services Carol Barake	

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS, Dr. Marya Endriga, Interim Dean	x	Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Weekly Update/Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux, Carolyn Monson	x	Website Jennifer Kerr	x
Recorder Jim Hodges		Office Manager Amber Korb	x

Assistant Controller Anne Putt	x	Board Liaison: Diana Gin	
Guest: Trisha Uhrhammer		Guest: Marian Sheppard	
Guest: Kevin Collins	x	Guest: Bob Silva	x

1. **Call to Order** –President Deborah Sieler called the zoom meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. **Approval of March 3, 2025 Minutes**-- Two corrections to the March minutes. Amber did not meet with the Center for Small Business last month. Laurye, Ralph and Jackie will work with students about being tech hosts. March minutes were approved as corrected.
3. **President's Welcome**— Welcome to all present. A limited number of free tickets to the Broadway Music Circus on Thursday, June 19, 2025 are available for those who renew RS membership.
4. **Reports**
 - a. **Secretary:** Susan Brackenhoff - No RS members deaths were reported this month.
 - b. **Controller:** Dave Ferguson and Anne Putt reported \$265,962 in the cash account with UEI. Dave reached agreement with Vanessa Perez for creating next year's Spring and Fall catalog for \$7300. Dave negotiated the price slightly down since she has been doing this for several years. The next step is to work with UEI to recognize her as an Independent Contractor.
 - c. **Office Manager:** Amber Korb said office procedures are running smoothly.
 - d. **Sac State Liaison:** Dr. Marya Endriga, Interim Dean of the College of SSIS – Last meeting she talked about reorganization of the colleges and departments. This is an uneasy time for faculty, staff, and students. In order to alleviate some anxiousness, an operation controller has been named who will begin on April 25. No more dean reduction information is available. All are encouraged to have discussions that make sense for collaboration and shared processes. The new Provost is Erica Cameron from Palo Alto University. She will need to focus on the budget deficit of more than 8.7 million and come up with 22% reduction plan. Cuts of temporary faculty members will need to be made in the fall schedule which will impact both lecturers and students. A Town Hall for staff about the reorg and operation control was hosted by staff council. Their #1 concern is job security.

Since fall registration opens on April 21, decisions must be made soon. It is a very unsettling time for some faculty and students who are afraid of DEI activities Affinity centers are affected but they are open. Recently, RS had a Forum speaker from a law firm talk about DEI who offered pro bono help to affinity centers. Small groups of Dream students were invited to have lunch and talk about their stories. Dr. Endriga suggested involving gerontology students to help with our tech host issues. RS marketing should enhance language that it is not exclusionary.
 - e. Discussion about Tech Hosts - Sara and Tom will meet to discuss additional tech hosts. Jackie asked that she and Ralph be included.

- f. Discussion about the Affinity Centers - RS members are encouraged to come in one or twos as part of the campus community to be welcoming and gently interested.

Decisions and Discussion

- a. Nominating Committee Slate- Susan made a motion to approve the slate of officers and MALs that had been approved by the Executive Board on April 1:
- President Deanna Hanson
Vice President Ralph Paladino
Secretary Susan Brackenhoff
Controller Dave Ferguson
MALs two-year term: Marian Sheppard, Bob Silva, Janet Heath
- Mike seconded the motion. Motion passed, no negative votes and no abstentions. Susan thanked Barbara Davis-Lyman and Ann Reid for their dedicated work on the nominating committee.
- b. New Committee Co-Chair--Deborah was pleased to appoint Ralph Paldino as co-chair of Program Committee. Peter Mundy has officially stepped down as chair this month. Ralph remarked he was thankful for confidence shown in him and sees co-chair Jackie as an excellent working partner. A new committee for orientation has been formed with Sue McGinty, Mari Shine, Ralph Paladino.
- c. Cooperation with Affinity Centers – Deborah announced an update with a law firm that has agreed to do pro bono assistance for dreamers. We are encouraged to individually or with a friend, drop by the various Affinity Centers on campus just to say hello and express support. See the March issue of The Record page 6 for a list of Affinity Centers with locations and times.
- d. Partnerships with theater and ballet - Deanna has established good partnerships with Capital Stage, B Street, and the Sacramento Ballet and is looking for additional partnerships. Deanna and Susan B will meet with Harris Center April 30. Laurye has a contact for Sacramento Broadway and suggested they may be a Forum speaker. If anyone has affiliations with theaters, inform Deanna.
- e. UEI – A meet and greet conversation between UEI Executive Director John Melikian and Deborah, Dave and Tom unexpectedly turned to liability issues. John commented that RS is a liability to Sac State “a square peg” and that UEI is a straw man when receiving our dues since RS does not pay taxes on dues. John wants to better define the relationship between RS and Sac State. In the past, when RS applied to become 501-c3, it was turned down by and signed by UEI, not by the University. He was unaware of our MOU and he expressed interest in RS pursuing 501-3c status. RS has evolved over the years from when relationships with the University were first initiated. The original MOU may no longer be adequate for accommodating current & future business practices. Ken cautioned that enormous preparation had been for the

last attempt to gain 501-3c status. We need to have a clear plan about what is needed before going ahead. RS needs to work in concert with our SA State liaison. Eventually the Chancellor's signature will be required. Emerging matter.

- f. ACC Telethon –Two years ago ACC began inviting us participate in their telethon. This year on May 1 at 6:30, Diana Gin and Mike Hersher will sing. This gives us wonderful exposure with ACC.
- g. GSSD – April 17, 18 – Deborah presented a challenge for Give Back Sac State Day. She is committing \$5000 and challenging RS members to donate \$50. Mike has been doing background work to prepare for this 36-hour event. Donations have been good for four years. Goal this year \$12,000.
- h. Annual Meeting-- Deborah is checking on President Wood's availability for the Annual Meeting. Ratifying the slate of 2025-2026 officers and MALs, honoring scholarship recipients and celebrating the diversity and inclusion award are all on the agenda for the May 9 Forum.

5. Written Committee Reports -- As submitted.

Statement of No Report: Volunteer Services

6. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. **Communications and Marketing** –Rick and his committee have been studying their budget. Most of their budget (\$3000) is spent on printing and mailing The Recorder. There was discussion concerning the value of mailing The Recorder as opposed to all members depending entirely on the online edition. The June edition is currently being written and will be sent out to those who have requested print copies. As of now, there are no changes to that plan. Rick was pleased to report the new publisher for The Recorder is Carol Monson who has already been working with Jim Hodges. Ann Hennesey will work with Amber to create the new rack card. She will ask for input.
- b. **Finance and Administration** – The completed budget worksheets are to be sent back by April 18th. Dave and Anne have asked again if the transfer of \$17,000 from the Scholarship Fund to the Endowment Fund has occurred, but it has yet to be confirmed. The same with the Nelsen Fund. When asked if the dues increase was bad timing for members, Dave responded that our costs require this increase. 70% of our dues are fixed. Member scholarships are available if needed.
- c. **Forum** – Mari announced the Forum Committee has arranged speakers for all Fridays during the 2025 Fall Semester. There is a February 2026 speaker scheduled. Mari thanked all for the good Forum suggestions. Janet was thanked for continued excellent work as Forum co-chair tech host.

- d. **Membership** – Deanna/Susan W will be presenting to 4 different organizations this month. A spring picnic is planned for Arden Park Pavilions and Clubhouse on Sunday, June 15 from 11:00-6:00. This will be an excellent opportunity to thank Deborah for three years as RS President. The sunshine committee sent out two cards to ill RS members.
- e. **Program** – Co-Chairs Jackie and Ralph have increased the number of Summer Program to 9. The Program Leaders Workshop is May 16.
- f. **Resource Development**- Mike encouraged Board members to give during the Give Sac State Day -GSSD. He has been working closely with Laurye to prepare for the Annual Meeting as to whether the scholarship recipients will be named or will remain anonymous.
- g. **Scholarship** – Laurye/Sue M -The committee introduced a new scholarship recipient consent form, which is currently under review by Sac State staff. Unfortunately, the approval has not yet been given and it is moving very slowly. Deborah wondered if the delay was due to DEI issues. We want to protect students but we want to connect with our members as well. Sac State did not approach RS to create this form but they now have begun to use our form since they did not have one. There were 144 great student applications submitted by very deserving students. Thank you to the Scholarship Committee for their time and effort for the review process. A Scholarship Application Reviewer Confidentiality Agreement has been drafted and is under review by the members.
- h. **Technology** – Sarah/Tom – Kevin Collins has taken the lead on meeting with IRT. In the future there will be a need to move away from the current registration system and go to another platform. The Technology Committee is in the beginning stages of looking at new system but have not committed to anything. This will be a cumbersome process. The system requirements document for a new registration system were completed. This is not as pressing as thought as we can continue to use the existing system. The requirements will be shared with the Program Committee.

The pizza party for IRT students who helped out with tech issues was very well received. Kevin suggested that it become an annual event.
- i. **Volunteer Services** – Carol no report

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

7. Working Groups Eric Levinson presented the draft requirements document to the Technology Committee and he's making updates before proceeding to the Program Committee.

8. New or Urgent Business- none

9. Key Dates

- a. April 17 – 19 Give Sac State Day

- b.** Monday, May 5 at 10 am Board meeting
- c.** Friday, May 9 at 3 pm Annual Meeting
- d.** Friday, May 16 time tbd, Program Leaders Workshop
- e.** Friday, June 6 first Summer Program, Crocker Art Museum

10. **Adjourn** Deborah thanked everyone working on the Summer Program. Adjournment at 11:42 am.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 5 at 10 am, Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

Submitted by Susan Brackenhoff, Secretary