

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Monday, August 3, 2026

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Jackie Lamb	x	Carol Stanford	
Vice President, Sean Tracy	x	Kevin Collins	
Secretary, Janet Heath	x	Marian Sheppard	
Controller, Dave Ferguson	x	Mike Blixt	x
Asst. Controller, Thom Gilbert	x	Mahnaz Khazari	
Past President, Deanna Hanson	x	Bob Silva	x

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
Tech Co-Chairs Kevin Collins, Tom Nelson	x	Program Chair: Sandy Britton Deborah Martinez	x
Finance & Administration: Dave Ferguson Asst. Controller Thom Gilbert	x	Resource Development Chair: Mike Pidd	
Forum Chair: Anne Rewell, Sigrid Bathen	x	Scholarship Chair: Sue McGinty	x
Volunteer Services Chair: Pam O'Brien	x	Nominating Chair:	
Membership Co-Chairs: Susan Wheeler, Michael Blixt	x	Communications/Marketing Rick Atkinson	x
Connections, Deborah Seiler	x		

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Dr. David Lang, Liaison			
Weekly Update/Constant Contact: Hollis Kulwin, Teri Stone, Loretta Burdeaux		Website: Teri Stone Facebook: Kathy Hart	
Recorder, Carolyn Monson	x	Office Manager: Amber Korb	x

- **Call to Order** -President Jackie Lamb called the meeting to order at 10:01 am at Clara Studios.
- **Approval of Minutes – Janet Heath** - Deanna moved to approve the July 9, 2026 minutes and Pam seconded. Membership voted to approve the minutes.
- **President's Welcome**

- **Sac State Update**, Dr. David Lang, SSIS Liaison was not available to provide a report.

- **Reports**

- **Controller** – Dave Ferguson. Thanks to the increase in membership dues the membership account ended with approximately \$25,000 more than anticipated in the 2025-26 budget. Dave reported that UEI has closed the 2025-26 books and show expenses for the year to be between \$213,000 and \$214,000. The final financial report will be provided to the BOD soon.
- **President/Executive Committee** – Jackie Lamb. Jackie reported that the Executive Committee is focusing on our CSUS-UEI relationship and how it is related to current expenditures. The Executive Committee is exploring applying for 501 (c)(3) status to address some of the issues experienced when working with UEI. Jackie has requested an appointment with the interim head of UEI to discuss rules that RS needs to follow regarding the use of RS funds and how we can find these rules.

The description of rights that are available to RS members is being reviewed focusing on attendance of non-RS members at RS events and classes. Once a draft has been prepared the Program Committee will be asked to provide input. The Executive Committee's goals and objectives were reviewed at the latest Executive Committee meeting. Measurable goals and task assignments have been created for 3 of the 6 goals identified by the committee. The Executive Committee also determined that a liability waiver is needed for all participants attending an off campus event. The form is underdevelopment and will be disseminated to Program Leaders. The possibility of using this as a way to track attendance was briefly discussed.

- **Office Manager** – Amber Korb. Amber reported that she will have the final figure for 2025-2026 donations soon. Thank you cards are ready to be sent out to donors. A signing party may occur after consulting with the Resource and Development chair, Mike Pidd. The BOD encouraged resuming this activity as it provides a more personal recognition of donors. The office staff are getting

ready for the Discovery Day/Open House on August 14. Passports will be given to participants with a prize for most stamps. The intent is to provide more opportunities for interactions with the Program Leaders and represented agencies that day. A dry run for the day will be held on August 10. BOD members are being asked to attend August 14 and to pick up a “Ask Me” button to help attendees with any questions. As of the end of July 109 people have signed up to attend. Rob Taylor will be leading campus tours. Pam will ask if he will be willing to do a second tour. The Senior Planet training sponsored by AARP is going well. Training has focused on technology curriculum. About 900 people have signed up for the coming RS year. The “At A Glance” will be out by August 10.

- **New Business**

- Tracking Goals and Objectives – Sean Tracy. Sean provided a template for tracking the progress on meeting committee goals and objectives. The goals and objectives matrix will be incorporated into monthly committee reports. Sean will be meeting committee chairs to help in completing the matrix. Mike Blixt reported that the Membership Committee has already begun contacting members to be potential leaders for each of the committee’s identified objectives. If committees find that their budgets need to change, the chair(s) should speak with the finance team (Dave or Thom).
- Connections Committee – Deborah Seiler. The Connections Committee will act as a hub for RS events and activities. The purpose is to ensure smooth communications both internally (within RS) and externally (CSUS and community organizations), to make sure all involved parties are informed of upcoming events and/or potential scheduling conflicts, and to create a more diverse membership. The committee will also be looking at how members can become more involved in RS. Deborah would like to initiate focus groups to get a better feel for what people would like to see out of RS.

- 40th anniversary celebration- Rick Atkinson. The winery tour is scheduled for late September or October. A bus will provide transportation to the event. Transportation, food and wine will be included in the per person price to be determined later.
- Nominations Committee Appointment- Sean Tracy has been appointed as chair of the nominating committee. He is looking for additional committee members. Thom Gilbert agreed to be on the committee.
- Volunteer Opportunities- Jackie is working with Ryan Choi to initiate a monthly lunch with RS members and students to strengthen RS connection with students. The lunch will be held on the last Friday of the month and each RS member will host 2 students at a cost of \$25 per person. Ryan will select 12 students and RS will provide 6 members in this effort to connect the generations.
- Special funds committee update (Deborah, Deanna, Susan, Jackie)- Remaining funds from a series of events that were canceled due to Covid will be used to support various activities on sustaining democracy with a focus on the Declaration of Independence. Kim Nalder will be producing a podcast in October. A RFP was sent to CSUS faculty and interested RS members asking for presentations on the topic and Jackie reported that she and David Lang are working on finding a nationally known speaker. They are asking CSUS to identify additional funding for speaker and facility costs. The plan is to hold the presentation at the new Capitol Public Radio building downtown.
- Progress on MOU – No progress to report at this time. It is reported that David Lang believes it will move on to the new Provost soon.
- Homes for Hornets – Deanna reported that with Ken Cross and CSUS Social Services the Homes for Hornets pilot project is moving forward. The program will screen eligible graduate students needing housing next semester. Renaissance will help identify members who would be willing to help by providing a room.

- **Committee Reports by Committee Chairs and discussion:**

- Program – Sandy Britton, Debra Martinez. The summer program was very successful. A meeting of the committee on Aug 11 will review key learnings. The tracking of no shows and following up with them seems to have addressed previous concerns of filling vacancies at events. At the upcoming Discovery Day/Open House the committee will be recruiting program leaders and providing information about what the program committee does.
- Technology – Tom Nelson/Kevin Collins. See BOD report
- Scholarship – Sue McGinty. See BOD report
- Forum – Anne Rewell/Sigrid Bathen – The committee is working on confirming Spring forum speakers. They currently have a list of potential speakers for the Fall.
- Resource Development – Mike Pidd. No report
- Communications & Marketing – Rick Atkinson. Continuing to look for an additional writer for the Weekly Update. Carolyn Monson was thanked for her work on the Recorder. Ryan Choi has volunteered to write a monthly column for the RS Recorder. It was suggested that including an article about program leaders or outstanding RS members could be included in the Recorder. Carolyn welcomes submitted articles on these topics.
- Nominating – Sean Tracy. No report.
- Volunteer Services – Pam O’Brien. The Food Pantry will be celebrating its 10th anniversary on September 14.
- Membership – Susan Wheeler/Mike Blixt. The committee has been focusing on increasing attendance at the Discovery Day/Open House. BOD members are being asked to reach out to friends, neighbors and family to encourage them to come. Teri Stone, Susan and Mike B attended a very warm Harvest Festival in Fair Oaks where RS information was well received. The committee has received an invitation from El Hogar to do a 15 minute presentation on October 28 about RS. There will be a RS table at the Ohana Walk on September 19. A suggestion

was made to have a RS presence at new student welcome events to encourage them to invite parents and grandparents to explore RS

- Finance and Administration Budget Discussion – Dave Ferguson. See BOD report
- Connections – Deborah Seiler. No report

Key Dates

Discovery Day and Open House – August 14th

- Executive Committee Meeting, August 31st 1:00
- 10th Anniversary – Pantry – September 14th – 12:30 to 2:00
- Next BOD Meeting – September 9th (Note Change to Wednesday for September)

Adjourn: Sean made a motion, seconded by Sue to adjourn. Approved.