

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

December 4, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler	x	Carol Barake	x
Vice President, Debbie Martinez	x	Dale Good	x
Secretary, Susan Brackenhoff	x	Janet Heath	x
Controller, Norv Wellsfry	ab	Frank Martinez	x
Past President, Ken Cross	x	Kathryn Tobias	ab

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
C&M Richard Atkinson	ab	Program Dale Good	x
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry	ab	Resource Dev. Mike Pidd	x
Forum Michele Finerty	x	Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	x
LRP Ken Cross	x	Technology Sarah Ryan-Roberts	x
MDCE Debbie Martinez	x	Tech Co-chair Tom Nelson	x
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	x	Volunteer Services Carol Barake	x

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Website Jennifer Kerr	x	Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Weekly Update/Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux		Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS /Dean Dianne Hyson	x
Recorder Jim Hodges		Office Manager Amber Korb	x
Guests:			

1. **Call to Order:** President Deborah Seiler called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Dunbarton Clubhouse.
2. **Approval of Nov. 6, 2023, Minutes:** Sarah motioned and Mike seconded the approval of Nov 6, 2023 minutes.
3. **President's Welcome Message:** Sac State faculty have planned a strike for Thursday. This situation continues to unfold. Deborah will give a semester wrap up at the Dec 8 Forum. Vice President of Student Affairs, Aniesha Mitchell, will also speak. After the Forum, the RS holiday party will be at Engrained Restaurant at 4:00. Deborah has invited some of our partners as guests: AME Pastor Jason Thompson, Ted Fong, ACC, and Delores Campbell with LULAC. Dec 15 is the Program Leaders' Workshop.
4. **Reports**
 - a. Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff - No deaths of RS members were reported this month.
 - b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry - In Norv's absence, Deborah reported that RS is doing well financially. Norv plans to give an update on committee expenses. There has been no action on establishing a backup system for the controller position.
 - c. Office Manager: Amber Korb- The new smaller size RS banner was displayed. There are 39 reservations for the holiday party. The end of year scholarship appeal letters have been sent.
 - d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS - The connections that RS have made throughout the year have been "remarkable". Compliments to Deborah. RS is considered very solid by Sac State administration. Union issues continue to be a pain point on campus. President Wood is working towards his goals but problems with CapRadio have taken considerable energy. The CapRadio Board is being reconstituted. Sarah inquired about an update on RS being able to use the "non-profit" license to get Google as a file management system. Dianne is meeting with staff and will try to get an answer. Deborah asked about the status of the RS donation button.
5. **Decisions and Discussion:**
 - a. Annual Report status: Debbie is working hard to complete it, perhaps by next week.
 - b. Diversity Proposal update: Deborah is working with Velma Parker and others from AME Church to develop a cohort from the Church. Velma suggested that giving free memberships may not be as valued as compared to paying a nominal amount (yet to be determined). Frank suggested creating a RS Board position for partner organizations so they would have a voice at the table. Dean Hyson suggested the term "liaison" instead of a Board position. Sac State is doing something similar on campus.
 - c. Program Leaders Workshop: Dale is planning a dynamic, interactive program leaders' workshop to be held Dec 15 from 9:30-1:30 in the Pacific Suites of the University Union. There will be various segments on how to engage audiences, handle disruptive members gracefully, teaching hybrid, strict timeframes. Program leaders will be given 1-2 minutes to share best practices. Lorene will discuss office support and expectations. On January 17, Sarah and Tom will host a tech update workshop.
 - d. Speaking and tabling events: None currently
 - e. Final Forum and Holiday Party: See above.

- f. Update on meeting with Sac Public Library : Deborah has sent several contracts for review but has not received any kind of acknowledgement from them.
- g. MLK Jr. 25th Anniversary Celebration: Deborah is encouraging Board members to attend the dinner on Jan 27. Tickets are \$100. Deborah will host a table for AME members.

6. Written Committee Reports

Statements of No Report: Long Range Planning

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Program: Dale - Spring catalog production is underway with a total of 103 offerings including 47 one-time presentations; 36 seminars; and 32 fully subscribed. Program Leaders Workshop: 9:30 to 1:30 Dec 15th in the Pacific Suites of the University Union. Snacks and coffee will be available, and lunch will be provided in the Green and Gold Room just across the hall from the Pacific Suites. It will be in person, not on Zoom or hybrid. There will be a new workshop format of attendee-focused participation, therefore it will be offered in-person only. Sac State Assistant Professor Lina Rincon, Director of Faculty Diversity and Inclusion in The Inclusive Equity Office, will be asked to share ideas about promoting diversity as well as promoting greater diversity of programs.
- b. Resource Development: Mike - Christina Budwine has written a heartfelt appeal letter for the end of year appeal mailing. Next year, the appeal letter may be sent earlier to avoid overload by other charitable requests.
- c. Scholarship: Laurye - The issue with endowments and scholarships appears to be resolved. Laurye sent out the letter to interested parties and received two responses. A fresh marketing brochure with a QR code linked to the RS Scholarship application will be placed in flyers in buildings on campus. There are two committee positions open for 2024.
- d. Technology: Sarah/Tom - Sarah complimented Marian Kile for her exceptional work on gathering RS data. Marian has contacted all tech host entries submitted on program leader applications for Spring 2024 and verified their commitment. Tech hosts are still needed for the Forums. On Jan 8, Marian will conduct an Effective PowerPoint presentation training. On Jan 10, there will be a Tech Overview Training for new program leaders and hosts. On Jan 17, there will be a Spring 2024 Tech Update. Mike Argon will coach hybrid leaders. Tom is working on the complicated file management project. There is a possibility of Google donating it. Frank asked about using empty computer labs for hands-on training. On Jan 12, Janet will train Forum Tech Hosts from 3:00-4:00 in Mendocino 1005.
- e. Volunteer Services: Carol - Sommer Hayes from the ASI Food Pantry told Carol the goal for the food drive was originally \$8,000 but actual donations totaled \$24,000. RS is currently a top contender for the Golden Plate Award. Of the RS donations, 58% were made online and 42% of the donations came from classroom envelopes. More emphasis needs to be directed to online giving. Plans are being made to partner with Aramark to provide a hot meal for students next Thanksgiving as well as to find Host Homes for students without nearby families. The RS ushering is going well despite the low number of student productions. There are some difficulties with volunteer parking. There were 80 gerontology volunteers this semester. Student gerontology conference monies were not used this year
- f. Communications and Marketing: Rick - There has been a 20% response to Rick's survey regarding the Recorder newsletter.
- g. Finance and Administration: Norv -

- h. Forum: Michele - Since it is difficult to find skilled tech hosts for the Forums, Michele inquired about hiring someone for this role. Tom suggested finding student assistants. Sarah will approach IRT about available assistance. After a two-year search for a wildfire expert to address the Forum, Michele found a Sac State graduate willing to present on May 5, 2024. His wife is also a Sac State graduate.
- i. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement: Debbie -Spring Orientation zoom planning meetings will begin next week. Table reservations are being taken for presenters, committees and community partners. Our current membership total of 1513 is about even with last year. Debbie ordered RS logo pens and a smaller tablecloth for tabling events.
- j. Nominating: Susan- The nominating committee activities will begin in January.

8. Working Groups: RS Open House will be Jan 26. Michele Finerty will be in charge of the planning this year. Ken has sent out invitations to the community groups. Committees need to request a table soon. The same number of refreshments from last year will be ordered.

9. New or Urgent Business : RS has an opportunity to ask for assistance from the Sac State Center for Small Business. Ideas for their help were establishing a twitter account, helping Amber with the registration system, creating a five minute promotional video for RS and continued help with Instagram and Tik Tok.

10. Key Dates

December 8 – Classes end; final Forum
December 8 – Holiday Dinner at Engrained
December 15 – Program Leaders Workshop
January 5 – Mail AAGs
January 8 – Board Meeting; Catalog Posted
January 16 – Program Enrollment
January 26 – Orientation & Open House

11. Adjourn: Mike made the motion, seconded by Carol to adjourn at 11:55 AM.

12. Next Meeting: January 8, 2024, Zoom

Submitted by Susan Brackenhoff
Renaissance Society Secre

