

**THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 8, 2021**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1. Call to Order:** The meeting was held on Zoom and called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Ken Cross. In attendance were: President Ken Cross, Past President David Abelson, Vice President Barbara Davis-Lyman, Secretary Bob Benedetti, Controller Norv Wellsfry; Members at Large - Susan George, Karen Martin, Deborah Seiler, Charles Wiseley; Committee Chairs- Evelyn Boggs, Nancy Findeisen, Jeff Hendy, Allan Keown, Cindy Suchanek, and Tom Suchanek; SSIS Dean Dianne Hyson, and guests Jennifer Cummings, Cheryl Huffman, Jennifer Kerr and Lorraine Murphy.

**1.2 Introductory Remarks:** one year ago, Dr. Glenna Torchet made a presentation to the Board on the rise of COVID-19. The Renaissance Society (RS) did a tremendous job of responding to the challenge. RS now needs to consider the options as the community begins to re-open. Ken will form a “hybrid” workgroup to explore the possibility of returning to campus (when health guidelines and CSUS permit) while continuing to have virtual programming.

**1.3 Announcements:** none

**2. AGENDA**

**2.1 Additions to the Agenda:** none

**2.2 Approval of the Agenda- Motion/Second - M/S –Seiler/Findeisen -** unanimous approval.

**3. REPORTS/UPDATES FROM OFFICERS, STAFF, CSUS LIAISON**

**3.1 Secretary’s Report**

- Approve minutes from February 8, 2021 Board Meeting- **M/S –** Benedetti/Seiler - unanimous approval.
- Condolences – Robert Pacholik

### **3.2 Controller's Report – see 5.3**

**3.3 Office Manager's Report** – the Membership Directory is being prepared. Board members will be asked to update the Board contact information page of the Directory.

### **3.4 CSUS Liaison Report**

- This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Study Department. The name is being changed to Women and Gender Studies.
- COVID 19 - the majority of campus will remain virtual in Fall 2021. In-person classes will be capped at 20% of capacity. Social distancing and mask requirements will be enforced. CSUS received grant funds for physical changes to classrooms such as installing plexi glass and upgrades to rooms.
- The President and Provost are aware of the issues RS has had with UEI delays in processing check requests.

## **4. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS**

### **4.1 Board Election of Officers 2021**

- Motion to approve the same election process for this year's election that was followed in 2020. **M/S** – Benedetti/Abelson- unanimous approval.
- As was the case last year, Jeff Hendy and Shari Lowen will act as tellers to receive and count ballots.

### **4.2 Clarification of RS Board Election Procedure:**

- The Standing Rules do not clearly state that the Nominating Committee brings a slate of officers to the Board for review and submission to general membership.
- Motion that the Nominating Committee's proposed slate shall be presented to the Board for its review, assessment, and approval prior to submittal to the general membership for vote. **M/S** – Abelson/Benedetti-unanimous approval. The Executive Committee will amend the Standing Rules accordingly effective immediately.

#### **4.3 Special Forum Proposal: Presentation by Climate Scientist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe-Fall 2021**

- The Forum Committee proposes to offer a program on the Climate Crisis which would be co-sponsored by several climate education organizations.
- Motion to invite Dr. Katharine Hayhoe to present a Forum on the intersection of climate and faith in coordination with other organizations – **M/S** T. Suchanek/Seiler- unanimous approval.

#### **4.4 Expenditure Approval of Logo Designer**

- A member survey was done to get a sense of what RS means to members. The results will be incorporated into the new logo.
- Some Board members do not see a need to change the current logo but agreed to take a fresh look at it.
- Motion to approve expenditure of \$650.00 to hire a professional designer to create a new logo per the previously approved Statement of Work deliverables and deadline- **M/S** – Findeisen/Seiler- unanimous approval.

#### **4.5 BOD Approval of Intent of Programs to Be Funded by The Special Projects Account**

- The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Committee members would like to plan a series of programs using up to \$7,000 of Special Project funds. These programs will carry out the civil rights themes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Committee's mission.
- Dean Hyson stated that the Committee needs to develop procedures for reviewing and approving proposals.
- Motion to: 1) extend the 19th Amendment Ad Hoc Committee's status through October 31, 2021; 2) present at the April RS Board meeting a process for approval of proposed Ad Hoc Committee projects by the RS Board and/or Executive Committee and CSUS; 3) present at the April meeting a proposal for a committee to oversee expenditure of funds from the CSUS Special Programs Fund. **M/S** – Findeisen/Benedetti- unanimous approval.

**4.6 Meeting with Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes (OLLI) at CSU Fullerton** – Ken Cross and Nancy Findeisen met virtually with representatives from OLLI Fullerton on February 9, 2021. Nancy gave a presentation on that program. The Board agreed that RS should pick out a few of the innovative features and explore incorporating them into RS.

## **5. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **5.1 Program Working Group/Seminar Committee**

- Options for a summer program are being explored.
- Communities of Practice attendance is 20-25 each week.
- Looking at additional offerings on Diversity and Racial Justice.
- Survey is being sent to past leaders to determine if they plan to lead a program in Fall 2021.

### **5.2 Technology Working Group – see written report.**

- Suggestion to give a certificate or thank you letter to IRT students who support RS.

### **5.3 Finance and Administration**

- Norv will do a budget workshop at the April meeting. Board members should let him know what they would like to have included.
- Budget proposals are due April 1. Tentative budget will be presented in May and approved in June.
- Projected \$27,000 deficit at the end of the fiscal year.
- There is approximately \$5,000 left in the Innovation Fund.

### **5.4 Communication and Marketing Committee – see written report**

### **5.5 Nominating Committee**

- Interviews will be completed by the end of March.
- Slate will be presented at April Board Meeting.

### **5.6 Forum Committee – postpone until April**

**5.7 Resource Development Committee – postpone until April**

**5.8 Scholarship Committee – starting to process applications.**

**5.9 Gerontology – will have report after May meeting.**

**5.10 Membership, Diversity, and Community Engagement Committee -**  
currently have 1,823 members.

**5.11 Announcements, Board Direction and Next Steps**

- Submit budgets to Norv
- Encourage members to vote

**6.0 REPORTS – see Board Packet.**

**7.0 NEW OR URGENT BUSINESS – none**

**8.0 ADJOURNMENT** -there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

**9.0 NEXT BOARD MEETING – April 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shari Lowen (for Bob Benedetti, Secretary)