

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting
January 10, 2022

1. OPENING

1.1 Call to Order: The meeting was held on Zoom and called to order at 1:02 p.m. by President Ken Cross. In attendance were: President Ken Cross, Past President David Abelson, Vice-President Deborah Seiler, Controller Norv Wellsfry, Secretary Bob Benedetti; Members at Large – Michele Finerty, Pam O'Brien, and Charles Wiseley; Committee Chairs – Susan Brackenhoff, Christie Braziel, Laurye Brownfield, Darryl O. Freeman, Jeff Hendy, Debbie Martinez, Sarah Ryan-Roberts, Cindy Suchanek, and Tom Suchanek; Staff Amber Korb and Shari Lowen; and Guest Elizabeth Deuso. Members not in attendance: Nancy Findeisen, Allan Keown. Lorraine Murphy.

1.2 Introductory Remarks:

- Waiting for annual convocation registration to come out. Convocation scheduled for Feb 14.

1.3 Announcements:

- Lowen: Amber Korb taking minutes today. Amber and Lorene Sarne to trade off taking minutes every other month.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Additions to the Agenda: none

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

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

3.1 Secretary's Report- Benedetti

- Condolence letter sent for Dr. Donald Gerth, (see page in catalog)
 - Commendations to Cindy, Allan, and Pam for catalog, and to Amber for research assistance on two condolences that will be in next month's report
- Approve minutes from December 6, 2021, Board Meeting- **M/S**– Benedetti/Seiler - unanimous approval.
- Cross: In addition to Gerth memorial in catalog there was also

mention in weekly update and February newsletter. Funeral was last week. Memorial service TBA.

3.2 Controller's Report- Wellsfry

- Office Manager Hiring Process (see Item 3.2 of Agenda) Job description complete, salary to start at \$35/hr. Had responses already.
 - Lowen: Posted on Indeed (close to a dozen applications from there since Saturday), Impact Foundry, UEI, (holding off posting on Monster due to cost), Kathy posted to Facebook, Deborah to include in recorder and weekly update.
 - Hiring Committee: Norv Wellsfry, Shari Lowen, Jan Austin, Debbie Martinez, Nancy Findeisen.
 - Developing screening criteria and interview questions.
 - Schedule: Soft Close on Jan 24, Screening applications Jan 25-27, Interviews Jan 31-Feb 2, Finalist interviews by Ken Cross and Deborah Findeisen Feb 7-9, Executive Committee to make selection, Wellsfry to report at next board meeting Feb 14.
 - Question: Korb: Asked about possibility of office positions being combined into one full-time position.
 - Answer: Wellsfry: No. RS is precluded from having any full-time employees by agreement with UEI, and it would be more expensive.
- Budget workshop at next meeting
- 19th amendment project- mural not happening- 19th Amendment Committee would like to award a scholarship instead, but Scholarship Committee is unable to do another one this cycle.
 - Special Projects Fund composed of leftover funds from 19th Amendment and has been added to by donations from this scholarship solicitation cycle. Purpose of fund is to sponsor joint projects with university.
 - Propose special projects working group to develop plan for use of Special Programs Funds especially centered around topics of civil and voting rights. **M/S** Wellsfry/Seiler. Discussion:
 - Seiler: Excited to do something related to voting rights.
 - Brownfield: Could do a scholarship for next semester if the working group doesn't decide on something else.

- Abelson: Suggests coordinating with SSIS.
 - Deuso: Possible Anchor University Program tie in? They have grants we could apply for as well.
 - Cross: 19th Amendment Committee has a year left in ad hoc status. The various committees involved have formed a consensus basically supporting the current motion
 - Cindy Suchanek: How much money? Wellsfry: Approximately \$8,500 left over, Cross: Plus approximately \$3,500 from current donation cycle.
 - Cindy Suchanek: What happened with mural? Wellsfry: Covid complications, no traction. Seiler: Jennifer Cummings, who was on the committee, moved out of the area.
 - **Vote:** Unanimous approval.
- Wiseley: In regards to Shari serving as a volunteer in the future, suggested she might want to join the Programs Committee.
 - This will also serve as the report for finance and administration committee. Norv left meeting due to Covid.

3.3 Office Manager's Report- Lowen

- Spring membership registration- 35ish spring only registration so far. Typical amount of calls/emails. Catalog came out today.
 - Korb: Lots of calls from members who don't realize that enrollment doesn't open until next week. Some calls wishing we would print the full catalog even if members had to pay for it themselves.
 - Wiseley: Can always suggest to members that they can take the .pdf of the catalog to Kinkos or something and get it printed themselves.
 - Abelson: Remind members of printed At-A-Glance Schedule. Hasn't logged his course yet on zoom. Once registration opens will there be no way for people to register for his class if he hasn't gotten that done?
 - Ryan-Roberts: She and Hendy already scheduled the courses on zoom for those leaders who had not already done so.

- Hendy: More that 20 leaders didn't follow the instructions. Would have taken maybe 5 minutes for the leaders to do it themselves, but it takes a lot longer when you have to keep swapping accounts. Must encourage leaders in the future to follow through on this simple step.
- O'Brien: Reiterate At-a-Glance comment.
- Korb: Confusion stemming from members misunderstanding that "if you want a printed copy" refers only to the At-a-Glance.
- Cross: Suggests downloading .pdf and sending it to tech-challenged members as an email attachment.
- Cindy Suchanek: Had previously discussed option of getting it printed for those who wanted it, but the cost was prohibitive. Plus the waste of paper.
- Wiseley: Would be about \$20 at FedEx.
- Cross: Probably closer to \$35-\$40

3.4 CSUS Liaison Report- none

4. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS:

4.1 RS Spring 2022 Sac State Return to Campus- Cross

- Update- Campus requiring booster shots now to be "fully vaccinated". See President's message delaying return until Feb 7th.
 - Lowen: What if they push the date back again?
 - Cross: They don't want to do that, but if it happens, gather emergency zoom to discuss. Only impact would be the in-person Friday classes. They might lose a couple weeks.
 - Abelson: Only 5 or 6 on campus programs planned? Hendy: 11 in person only, plus 4 hybrid.
 - O'Brien: who's coordinating extra masks etc.?
 - Cross: Has some left over from last semester. Will

probably have leaders pick up during seminar leader's workshop.

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES

5.1 Program Working Group/Seminar Committee- Cindy Suchanek

- Workshop on the 20th 9:30-12:00. Organized by Cindy and Mike. Board members have been invited.
- Rendezvous on the 21st. Organized by Evie Boggs and Pam with slides by Muffy Franke.
- Catalog launched 6:00 this morning. Thanks to Sarah Ryan-Roberts for posting. Tried to set up tinyurl, but it doesn't work with Flipbook. See acknowledgements on pg. 11 and photo on the back page. Thanks to committee, Pam, and Lorene.
 - O'Brien: Will already be working on next semester within the next month. Please look at this catalog with an eye to improvements for the fall version and share feedback.
 - Cindy Suchanek: Thanks to Chuck and Bill for help with SIGs
 - Wiseley: Kudos especially on tower picture. It is also on the At-a-Glance
 - Abelson: Thanks to Cindy, Allan, Pam, and others for catalog development. Have only transitioned from print catalog in the last two years and is proud of what we've accomplished.
 - Brackenhoff: Congratulations and thanks to the committee.

5.2 Technology Working Group/Committee- Hendy

- See report.
- Zoom links pulled together and data sent to CCE. System will be up by Wednesday.
- Hyflex training scheduled for Friday on campus.
- Ryan-Roberts: 10 classes left that still need tech hosts. Marian Kile trying to match people up and train. Training ongoing.

- Tom Suchanek: Please include Chris Smith for Hyflex training.
 - Ryan-Roberts: Forums zoom only? Tom Suchanek: Yes but they have discussed trying one or two of them with Hyflex to try it out in preparation for next semester.

5.3 Membership, Diversity, and Community Engagement- Martinez

- See membership report.
- Trying to get a group to attend MLK event Feb 5 at Sac State. 8 have purchased tickets so far, but Covid may interfere.
- Convocation- President Nelsen's Anti-Racism and Inclusion Convocation Feb 14 in person and on zoom. New VP for Inclusion and Excellence, Dr. Mia Settles Tidwell hired in November. Other new hires in that area as well.
- Covid has made recruiting and outreach challenging. Working to reimagine the ambassador program. Planning to target organizations for recruitment- alumni orgs etc.

5.4 Communications & Marketing- Seiler

- Delivering annual reports- she and Ken met with Dr. Donna Jensen (Gerontology Dept.), Nathan Dietrich (public relations and advocacy), Jim Reinhart (UEI), still to meet with Pres. Nelsen, Dean Murphy, and Dean Hyson. Thanks to Ken.
- Gratitude to Nancy Findeisen re: getting external Facebook page up and running.
- Rack card almost done. Has been challenging, but fun. Includes a zoom picture but it shows peoples' names. Once they have a pic without names it can go to print.
 - Korb: Offers to remove names using Photoshop.
- Summer Program working group first meeting Jan 24 or 27.
 - O'Brien: Since Summer programs are free, they're a good way to introduce people to Renaissance. Something MDCE might want to feature.
 - Seiler: Considering holding Summer forums on campus with Hyflex and doing a brown bag lunch.
 - Using themes to arrange recordings to present.

- Oakmont Senior Living- Offered them the River's Edge deal (Purchase one membership, make "donation" for 14 additional members).

5.5 Resource Development Committee- Cross for Findeisen

- Results of Fall solicitation letter: \$9,675 scholarship + more donations online, \$927 special programs – Very pleased.
- Sac State one day Giving Program coming in Spring. On track to meeting scholarship funding goal.
- Something Extra with registration also still open.

5.6 Finance and Administration Committee

- Completed. See 3.2

5.7 Scholarship Committee- Brownfield

- Applications opened Oct 2, close Mar 2.
- Struggling to get current count of applicants from Sac State.
- Scholarship meeting next Monday. Hoping for demo of electronic system. Trying to get off of paper copies.

5.8 Forum Committee– Tom Suchanek

- 12 Forums scheduled for Spring. See catalog.
- Already working on planning Fall Forums. Would like to invite another member to join forum committee.
- Cross: Impressed with diversity and quality of speakers.

5.9 Gerontology Committee- Brackenhoff

- Held semester end mentorship celebration mid-December on zoom.
- Meet with Marty Keel (Committee Co-Chair), Ken Cross, and Donna Jensen early in January to plan for the coming semester. Jensen going on sabbatical.
- Had 83 mentors last semester but only need about 40 for this semester. Planning to continue with those who have been mentors in the past before recruiting new mentors.
- Tom Suchanek: Forgot to mention, thanks to forum lead tech person Chris Smith and his team. Also to those who hand-write the thank you notes to speakers. Got email from Beth Ruyak who really

appreciated that.

- Suggests Harris Center volunteers as good targets for recruitment or collaboration.
- Cross: Donna Jensen very happy with RS' support and is looking for more ways to get us involved. Upcoming Yolo Hospice event we could table at June 24.

5.10 Announcements, Board Direction and Next Steps

- Looking for members at large and volunteers for nominating committee. Also new board members, committee members, and leaders. Challenge to recruit new members.
- Martinez: Recruiting for Office Manager as well.
- Hendy: Congrats to Ken for keeping meeting under 1.5 hrs.

6. REPORTS – see Board Packet.

7. NEW OR URGENT BUSINESS – none

8. ADJOURNMENT -There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm.

9. NEXT BOARD MEETING – February 14, 2022, at 1:00 pm.

Annual Board Budget Workshop

Amber Korb (for Bob Benedetti, Secretary)