

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

Board of Directors Meeting Monday, August 8, 2022

Presiding: RS President Deborah Seiler

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| Officers | Present | Members at Large | Present |
|---|---------|-------------------|---------|
| President, Deborah Seiler | x | Kevin Bray | x |
| Secretary, Bob Benedetti | x | Laurye Brownfield | no |
| Controller, Norv Wellsfry | x | Michele Finerty | x |
| Past President, Ken Cross | x | Darryl O. Freeman | no |
| Interim Vice President, Susan Brackenhoff | x | Kathryn Tobias | x |
| | | Walter Wilson | x |

| Committee Chairs | Present | Program | Present |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Program Kathryn Tobias | | | x |
| C&M Lorraine Murphy | x | Resource Dev Nancy Findeisen | no |
| Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry | x | Resource Dev Mike Pidd | x |
| Forum Michele Finerty | x | Rules Bob Benedetti | x |
| Gerontology Susan Brackenhoff | x | Scholarship Laurye Brownfield | no |
| LRP Ken Cross | x | Technology Jeff Hendy | x |
| MDCE Debbie Martinez | x | Technology Sarah Ryan-Roberts | x |
| Nominating Susan Brackenhoff | x | University Services Pat Paul | x |
| Program Pam O'Brien | no | University Services Paula Connors | x |

| Liaisons/Guests | Present | Weekly Update | Present |
|-----------------------------|---------|---|---------|
| Weekly Update Rita Pasillas | | | x |
| Website Jennifer Kerr | x | Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS Dean Dianne Hyson | no |
| Recorder Lorraine Murphy | x | Officer Manager, Debra da Costa | x |

1. Call to order: 1:00 p.m. Meeting held at Dunbarton Cabana behind 100 Dunbarton Circle residence in Sacramento 16 members present, 3 liaisons present, 4 members absent

2. Introductions and President's Welcome Message: President Deborah Seiler welcomed all RS board members to the return of in person meetings. Self-introductions were made. It was announced that 1112 people have registered by this time today; last semester, we had 997 people register.

3. Approval of July 11, 2022 Minutes: Minutes approved.

4. Reports:

a. Secretary: Deborah explained that in future meetings, a rotating volunteer would take minutes.

b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry noted there is a surplus in our budget in the range of approximately \$20,000. Reasons for this surplus include low-to-no spending on social events and lack of the office personal cost for several months in the prior fiscal year. However, membership numbers are down so funding is down.

c. Office Manager: Debra da Costa has been busy receiving calls about registration, including when to register vs. when they get the catalog. She has mailed 200 catalogs; there are 70 left. She is working with staging and getting print materials out.

The issue of badge printing arose. New members need badges, now that we have returned to in-person events. Jeff Hendy reported that Amber (who is out with Covid) had printed badges for people who hadn't obtained them during Covid. Discussion concerned ways to transfer data (names) from the database to name tags; Jeff has worked with someone to make that an easier process. It was suggested that the process could be streamlined by leaving off the box in registration for the badge name. Discussion also concerned the use of the box "enroll now", which seems to be leading to confusion and additional calls, since it only goes active when registration is actually open. It was determined that members who had lost their badges would not be charged for replacements.

d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS: Not present' no report.

5. Decisions and Discussion:

a. Approve President's appointment of Susan Brackenhoff as Interim Vice President, a vacant office. It was moved, seconded and adopted unanimously that Susan fill this office until a permanent Vice President is identified.

b. The President appointed the Nominating Committee (which requires Board approval, unlike other committee chairs) and indicated that she will need nominations by March. See Committee report for members.

c. Consider future meeting times, dates, and locations: Members discussed the meeting time. Some members still work and preferred a meeting at 4:00 or 5:00 p.m., others felt like the 1:00 time breaks up the day too much. A Saturday meeting was discussed. Since we have parking available on Fridays and Saturdays, a meeting on campus was suggested but it was pointed out that the Board has never met on campus. A hybrid approach was also suggested, meeting in person one month and on Zoom the next month. The September 12 meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. in the same location at the Dunbarton Clubhouse near Sac State Campus.

d. Warren Bonta passed away suddenly, and the MDCE Committee has requested changing the name of the Diversity and Inclusion Award after him. Discussion concerned the advisability of naming an award after an individual. Jeff Hendy raised the question of criteria so it would be known in the future whether naming is appropriate. It was moved and seconded with a unanimous vote to name the award after Warren Bonta.

e. Membership was discussed and people reported actions that they had taken to advertise Renaissance Society by Twitter, Facebook, distribution of rack cards, published articles. etc.

6. Written Committee Reports: Deborah requested that Committee Chairs submit names of committee members and times of meetings to her.

a. Statements of No Report: University Services, Long Range Planning, Rules

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs:

a. University Services – Pat Paul and Paula Connors: Committee is looking for volunteers for events, including the production of the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Laramie Project and a Dance production.

b. Communications and Marketing- Lorraine Murphy: submitted a report

c. Finance and Administration – Norv Wellsfry: along with Resources Development. The committees are working on the Scholarship Endowment. The Endowment is at \$16,000, plus a major gift was just announced.

d. Forum – Michele Finerty: Announced that Forum starts up on Sept. 9. They got 26 suggestions for Forum topics. Members discussed a liberal versus a conservative bent toward classes, but there is no gateway. Also discussed was a limit to attending the Forum with a maximum limit. One future topic is “scams” – committee is looking for speakers.

e. Gerontology – Susan Brackenhoff: Susan reported 80 members with two sections. They will hold an orientation for mentors.

f. Long Range Planning – Ken Cross: Ken and Kevin Bray will hold a meeting on September 4 to start work .

g. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie Martinez: submitted a report

h. Nominating: Deborah appointed the 2023-2024 nominating committee: Susan Brackenhoff, chair with committee members Barbara Davis-Lyman, and Shari Lowen.

i. Program – Pam O’Brien and Kathryn Tobias: Pam is traveling this month.

j. Resource Development – Nancy Findeisen and Mike Pidd: Working toward increasing the endowment. A subcommittee is working on creating opportunities for contributions in honor of and in memory of.

k. Scholarship – Laurye Brownfield: No report.

l. Technology – Jeff Hendy and Sarah Ryan-Roberts: All updates are in report. Discussion of problem with presentations over providing class on Zoom or in person.

NOTE: at the next Board meeting, Technology will move to the top with subsequent rotation of committee reports

10. Key Dates:

August 8 Program registration portal opens – Monday

August 12 Orientation & Rendezvous – Friday

August 19 Program Leaders’ & Tech Hosts’ Workshop – Friday

September 6 Fall programs begin – Tuesday

December 2 Fall programs end – Friday

11. Next Steps:

12. Adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

13. Next Meeting: Monday, September 12, 10:00 a.m. Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Tobias (for Bob Benedetti, Secretary)