

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2022

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler	X	Kevin Bray	A
Secretary, Bob Benedetti	X	Laurye Brownfield	X
Controller, Norv Wellsfry	X	Michele Finerty	X
Past President, Ken Cross	X	Darryl O. Freeman	A
Interim Vice President, Susan Brackenhoff	X	Kathryn Tobias	X
		Walter Wilson	X

Committee Chairs	Present		
		Program Kathryn Tobias	X
C&M Lorraine Murphy	X	Resource Dev Nancy Findeisen	A
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	X
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	A
Program Pam OBrien	X	University Services Paula Conners	X

Liaisons/Guests	Present		
		Weekly Update Rita Pasillas	X
Website Jennifer Kerr	X	Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS Dean Dianne Hyson	
Recorder Lorraine Murphy	X	Officer Manager, Debra da Costa	X
Guest: Dr. Glennah Trochet	X		

1. **Call to order**
2. **President's Welcome Message.**
3. **Approval of August 8, 2022 Minutes**

- a. Some minor changes were brought up and will be updated. Motion to approve minutes as amended - Kathryn Tobias motioned for approval and Susan Brackenhoff seconded. All votes were in favor, no opposed or abstentions.

4. Reports

- a. Secretary: Bob Benedetti – Bob reported several members have passed and he is up to date with condolences. In the instances he has a physical address, he will mail a card.
- b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry – Norv reported the surplus was \$29,425. This was due to the revenue being higher than expected. Give a little extra campaign raised additional funds. The other savings was when Shari left – salary savings due to the time frame before hiring Debra De Costa. Cash Position net of \$200,652. This was due to the savings along with the change in no longer funding the parking permits. This leaves us in a favorable financial position. The membership was expected to increase 10% but that has not occurred. The reserve from last year gives us a cushion for this year.

The “Give Something Extra” raised \$14,550 representing 261 donors, with an average donation of \$55.

Endowment – discussion with Sac State regarding the Endowment Fund. Years ago, the RS members put 10,000 into the Endowment. The proceeds from the Endowment go into the Scholarship Fund. Currently it returns 4% . If we were to put \$75,000, this could fund one \$3,000 scholarship into perpetuity. Due to the success of the Revenue Development Committee, the Scholarship Fund has grown into \$127,803. The current Endowment fund is \$11,128, The third fund is the Special Projects Fund and is about \$14,000; this fund can only be spent as a joint project with the College of SSIS.

By transferring \$64,803 to the Scholarship Fund, this will fund one scholarship in perpetuity. This will leave \$63,000 in the Scholarship Fund and will cover three years as a contingency if no scholarship funds are raised. This is unlikely.

The third piece of this proposal is any funds raised annually over \$15,000 will go into the Endowment fund.

This proposal was started by Nancy Findeisen who worked with the university to get a meeting together to discuss the Endowment and Deborah wanted to recognize her work in getting to this proposal.

Norv moved the proposal, and Ken seconded. All votes were in favor, no opposed or abstentions.

Deborah suggested sharing the information about the “Give Something Extra” in the Recorder. She also suggested if we could put a donation button on the website, it could increase our donations. Mike has been wanting to work on this and Pam is interested doing something within the catalog. Jeff said this will require support from IRT and could be significant work. There was a discussion about the Give Something Extra and which funds were taxable. The Scholarship and Special Funds are tax deductible; the donations to general RS operations are not.

- c. Office Manager: Debra da Costa – She reported August was a very busy month and she complimented the office staff. They worked closely with the program and Technical Staff on the Rendezvous. They are very busy in the office helping members with registration and badges. They also help Seminar Leaders with logistics, classes, and other support. They track a variety of things – donor lists, etc. She has a suggestion that it would be helpful to put a descriptive title in emails to help the office hand the emails. Jeff asked about the office equipment. Debra says they are a little cramped and working to figure it out.
- d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS - not present
- e. Dr. Glennah Trochet, visiting member – see scanned notes

5. Decisions and Discussion:

- a. Review Scholarship Committee item – Laurye Brownfield provided information on changes to the Scholarship Specification. Several concerns were brought up about the committee getting access to student information and the Pell Grant criteria. Laurye shared the Sac State system is used, student names are only available to the Committee Chair and not the reviewers until the final scholarship decisions are made. The committee will not have access to any financial data – this is all done by university staff. The purpose of these changes is to make the process more equitable instead of trying to glean the information from the student essays. Bob B asked if the Pell Grant criteria will result in groups not being considered. Laurye shared there are two ways students apply for the Pell Grants, through the FAFSA and CA Dreamers – this will cover people who do not have Social Security Numbers. There is a chance this route may miss some outlying students, after lengthy discussions with Sac State, this seems to be the most equitable route. The Scholarship Committee will move forward with the changes to the Scholarship Specification.
- b. Establish goals for the 2022-2023 Board of Directors, continuing
 - i. Currently the membership is at 1390, the goal was to raise membership 10%. We have tried recruiting former members, some have returned while others have found other things to do. Bob suggested we try to do a push for spring semester. Debra Martinez is reaching out to alumni organizations. She is finding the demographic in the alumni membership is younger than our members, so she is suggesting they can share this with their relatives and friends. AARP approached us about advertising, Deborah asked if they would reciprocate. They balked at advertising but offered to retweet our

messages. Jeff brought up the concern that we seemed to be just focused on numbers. He questioned are our members satisfied. He has been doing some data analysis and he is finding more members are signing up for more classes. Susan and Kathryn brought up they are members of other organizations that have members around the RS ages, and they are finding a hard time recruiting new members. Bob suggested we combine our efforts with the Alumni Association, Sac State retirees to try to engage them into the university.

- c. Discussion/observations of first week of Fall program – Deborah shared even with the smoke and the heat, it was a good turnout. Pam shared there were a couple of leaders who decided to not hold the class on campus, they told the class attendees but not the program people. The badge table stayed open throughout the day. There were a number of questions regarding parking. Jeff reported there were people who did not know they needed to be vaccinated. Debra received an incident report on something that happened at someone’s house.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Statements of No Report: Nominating, Rules
- b. Committee Meeting Schedule – Deborah requested assistance in getting this information on the website.

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Technology – Jeff and Sarah – Sarah mentioned that the Tech committee is in charge of Tech Hosts and asks that all information come through their committee.
- b. University Services – Pat – no report
- c. Communications and Marketing – Lorraine - written report submitted
- d. Finance and Administration – Norv – see above
- e. Forum – Michele – new 15 minute video presentation featuring RS philanthropic information. They are starting on the Spring 2023 forum presenters.
- f. Gerontology – Susan – Orientation for Mentor/Mentees tonight. This is the first time they have conducted an orientation for the mentees.
- g. Long Range Planning – Ken – information in the written report, they held the first meeting.
- h. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie – information in the written report. She is suggesting we show up at the BBQ, we act as ambassadors – not only do we want to recruit, we want to retain.
- i. Nominating - Susan
- j. Program – Pam and Kathryn – Pam brought up she is looking at putting the Friday classes into “periods”. 1st period – would be between the time of 9:00 am and end by 11:45 am. 2nd would be 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, 3rd would be between 1:15 pm and end by 2:45 pm. The classes could be any time within this period. This will reduce overlapping classes.

- k. Resource Development – Nancy and Mike – information in the written report. The next Recorder will have list of all the donors.
- l. Scholarship – Laurye - information in the written report.

Deborah motioned to adjourn, Ken seconded, all votes were in favor, no opposed or abstentions. The meeting concluded at 12:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laurye Brownfield for Bob Benedetti.