

## RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES

February 6, 2023, at 10 am via Zoom

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

<b>Committee Chairs</b>	<b>Present</b>		<b>Present</b>
C&M Lorraine Murphy	<b>P</b>	Program Kathryn Tobias	<b>P</b>
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry	<b>A</b>	Resource Dev Mike Pidd	<b>P</b>
Forum Michele Finerty	<b>P</b>	Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	<b>P</b>
Gerontology Susan Brackenhoff	<b>P</b>	Technology Jeff Hendy	<b>P</b>
LRP Ken Cross	<b>P</b>	Technology Sarah Ryan-Roberts	<b>P</b>
MDCE Debbie Martinez	<b>P</b>	Univ. Services Pat Paul	<b>A</b>
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	<b>P</b>	Univ. Services Paula Connors	<b>A</b>
Program Pam O'Brien	<b>P</b>		

<b>Liaisons/Guests</b>	<b>Present</b>		<b>Present</b>
Website Jennifer Kerr	<b>P</b>	Weekly Update	<b>N/A</b>
Website Loretta Burdeaux	<b>A</b>	Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS /Dean Dianne Hyson	<b>P</b>
Recorder Mark Vance	<b>P</b>	Interim Office Manager, Amber Korb	<b>A</b>
Guests: Janet Heath, Frank Martinez, Dale Good, Carol Barake,	<b>P</b>	Liaison Ranny Eckstrom	<b>A</b>

- 1. Call to Order** - Deborah called the meeting to order at 10:00. Deborah is recording the meeting; she is working on some technical issues with recording to the cloud so she appreciated the help from Sarah while this is getting resolved.

**2. President's Welcome Message.** - Deborah thanked the board and committee members for all their work. She had a chance to see the organization through the eyes of a new member who was both overwhelmed and impressed. She also had a chance to attend a SWOT Analysis at the ASI Food Pantry and learned the RS is one of their top ten strengths. RS was also recognized as a sponsor for supporting the MLK dinner. This is Black History Month and we have some activities scheduled. This Friday is our first Friday of the month of classes so we will have a pizza party.

**3. Approval of January 9, 2023 Minutes (attached) Bob moved the minutes, Pam seconded, all approved; no nos, no abstentions**

**4. Reports**

- a. Secretary: Bob Benedetti (included)
- b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry - at grand jury
- c. Interim Office Manager: Amber Korb
- d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson College of SSIS -Shared life on campus is normal - not - normal. Being on campus is still a transition: some people are ready while others are still hesitant. Maybe take the best of both worlds, some new students are still trying to figure it out. They are in a search for both a president and chancellor, there also some changes in presidents at other campuses. The CSUS Provost is moving to Chico, the interim Provost is staying for another year. Attendance is down at both CSUs and community colleges. Sac State is working on recruiting students. Dianne thanked the RS for our presence on campus and said we are recognized for Food Pantry, scholarships and other campus endeavors. One of her commitments is to ensure RS stays and she will continue to support RS to the new leaders.

Deborah shared RS is also struggling to bring on new members so we can relate to some of the things Dianne brought up. Deborah noted she attended the session for the selection of the new president where there was a lot of discussion with students wanting a more diverse administration. Dianne shared the RS scholarship flyer with others and mentioned the strength of the Sac State scholarship program, with new analysts and workshops.

**5. Decisions and Discussion:**

- a. Diversity & Inclusion – report on MLK dinner/march - Debbie shared photos from the MLK dinner, RS had at least 3 tables. These photos are available on the MLK website. RS could not purchase tables; however, Debbie was able to work with one of the coordinators and they were able to organize the tables together. Deborah mentioned we need a new banner. Deborah mentioned a few other

items for MDCE. Allan Keown has a SIG which identifies events for members to participate in.

- b. Scholarship Endowment update – Mike and Laurye Mike reported we are either at or close to the \$75,000 to fund another endowment. Mike is working with Norv to verify the amounts in the scholarship funds.
- c. Report on Spring Semester launch - Mike shared he thought it was very successful. Susan agreed, and said they have some lessons learned from this year that they will apply next time. She was very pleased with the attendance even with the bad weather. Debbie also seconded these thoughts - there were approximately 70 people at the orientation and 250 attendees at the open house. There were about 20 new/renewals. Some leaders wanted their own tables, Pam is going to work on a process for leaders to request (and fully commit to showing up) tables for fall semester.
- d. Report on Jan. 16 survey results - Janet - It was sent to 2800 people, 150 fully filled out the survey. There were a number of people who volunteered for committees. Janet has lists that she is distributing.
- e. Report on Long Range Planning Analysis - Ken reported they have been holding meetings and have developed a draft SWOT. Kevin asked us to take a look at it with a focus on the weaknesses. Deborah asked us to look at the opportunities as well as the entire document. Comments are due by February 20th, send them to Ken ([kencross@kencrossconsulting.com](mailto:kencross@kencrossconsulting.com)) and Kevin ([kbrayb@live.com](mailto:kbrayb@live.com)) Pam asked if we did hit the 3000 members, has anyone thought about the number of programs we would need. Ken said that number came when the membership was about 2500 back in 2015. He was not on the committee at that point so he doesn't have the background on how those numbers came up. Jeff also shared they did not distinguish between Sigs, classes and seminars back then, they were all just called seminars. Others shared they used libraries, senior living centers etc. Carol Barake noted two of the series (Big History and Science) have a lot of people from Sun City/Liinccoln Hills that are attending these sessions. She wondered how many of those people are members of RS. Janet shared that the Big History is open to both RS and Sun City. The Science group is only open to RS. There are other presentations that are open to others. Deborah shared that Randy, our liaison, is trying to recruit from Sun City. Carol also shared there are other retirement communities in Folsom that RS could go visit. Debbie suggested that she will reach out to Carol to discuss these ideas. Ken reiterated for responses by the 20th.
- f. Report from Technology Committee - Held the first committee meeting 2/1/23. This is to establish a full committee versus a working group to help with Zoom, etc.  
They would like to propose having a Tech Committee (TC) member on each RS committee, as agreed with the committee chair. This would be a supportive role to help each committee - they would try to understand the committees' needs and let them know what solutions are available and how they can help.

The meeting really helped to define their purpose. Deborah appreciated the presentation, especially the goals and objectives. She is not sure all committees have these documented and the TC's could be used as a template. She also asked if there are enough TC members to help out. There was a discussion about how this would work, would it be helpful to have committee chairs reach out and share information instead of the tech person having to attend all the meetings. There was some discussion about the Tech Team taking on acting as the election committee. Jeff agreed to be the teller.

## **6. Written Committee Reports**

- a. Statements of No Report: Finance/Administration

## **7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs**

- a. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie Membership - we broke 1600, there are now 1660 members. This is something to celebrate - last fall we were at 1200 - 1300. Very pleased with the uptick. Also collecting demographic details - there are only 194 new members. With this small sample - 66% female, 33% male. 81% white, 10 other ethnic groups, 9% declined to state. Good news is we have a starting point.
- b. Nominating – Susan - reported there are excellent candidates. She appreciated the survey, and she has reached out to the people who indicated interest. The deadline is 2/15 for members to apply for Board positions.
- c. Program – Pam and Kathryn - Information is in the report - Pam is concerned about the number of leaders who are requesting changes to their classes. Jeff shared his class size has changed so he had to move up his classroom size. Sarah reminded everyone that people can now sign up for open enrollment so it is difficult to know if they are going to show up or zoom in. People also drop over the semester. Pam says there is a fee for classes over 100. Jeff mentioned there are fewer classes on Friday for people to select. This will need to be considered next year.
- d. Resource Development – Mike - Mike reported there are a few articles in the Weekly Update and the Recorder. The Scholarship and Resource Development Committees are working together on articles since we are so connected. 40 people attended the Estate Planning class. Mark Drobny is interested in doing a Forum. The committee is building momentum for “Give Sac State Day”.
- e. Scholarship – Laurye - written report and Mike’s information covered everything. She requested people read the Recorder article so they are aware of the information about the endowments and how future scholarship funds will be used.
- f. Technology – Jeff and Sarah - shared they have made a change to the email that goes out to class attendees that will make it easier for them to understand which class is sending out the email. The Tech Team also sent out an email with Tech Support to RS members if they need any assistance.

- g. University Services – Pat and Paula - No verbal report
- h. Communications and Marketing – Lorraine
- i. Finance and Administration – Norv
- j. Forum – Michele - Michele has a tech person to help with the Forum. She also thanked Jeff for getting the extra microphone. She is having issues with the tables in the room.
- k. Gerontology – Susan - Susan and Deborah met with Dr. Jenson re the gerontology program, they had ideas about a potential conference in the future. They are working on the mentors for the spring semester. They need six more mentors for the class.
- l. Long Range Planning – Ken - information in the report.

## **8. Working Groups**

- a. Summer 2023 Program WG update – Deborah - they are working on the speakers. They are looking at the Juneteenth celebration and maybe going to Oakland. They are also looking at getting a choir for that date. Allen’s SIG will be looking at other speakers. She will talk to Jeff and Sarah about sign ups for the Summer Program.

## **9. New or Urgent Business**

- a. Deborah reported at the Executive Meeting they discussed getting a gift for President Nelsen. Ideas were a lunch for him or a bench. Suggested taking responsibility for caring for part of the arboretum and putting a bench there.
- b. Deborah is working on drafting election procedures to document how elections work. She has a draft with the Executive Committee and once that is complete, she would like to have the Board review it. These would include terms, qualifications and announcements of the election process. Deborah says the current draft would not require bylaw changes though some changes are eventually needed, probably as a package of other technical changes. She thinks this should not be an election but rather a ratification of the candidates.

## **10. Key Dates**

February 6	Spring classes begin
February 10	First Friday Forum, Food Pantry, Pizza
Feb. 7 -28	various Black History Month activities

## **11. Next Meeting:**

March 6, 10 am, Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

## **12. Adjourn Bob motioned and Jeff seconded; all approved; no nos, no abstentions**

