

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES for February 5, 2024

Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse 10 a.m.

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler	x	Carol Barake	
Vice President, Debbie Martinez	x	Dale Good	x
Secretary, Susan Brackenhoff	x	Janet Heath	
Controller, Norv Wellsfry	x	Frank Martinez	
Past President, Ken Cross	x	Kathryn Tobias	
		Vacant	

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
C&M Richard Atkinson		Program Dale Good	x
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry	x	Resource Dev. Mike Pidd	x
Forum Michele Finerty	x	Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	
Forum Co-Chair Janet Heath		Technology Sarah Ryan-Roberts	x
LRP Ken Cross	x	Tech Co-chair Tom Nelson	x
MDCE Debbie Martinez	x	Volunteer Services Carol Barake	
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	x		

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Website Jennifer Kerr	x	Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Weekly Update/Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux		Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS /Dean Dianne Hyson	x
Recorder Jim Hodges		Office Manager Amber Korb	x

1. Call to Order – President Deborah Seiler called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Self-introductions were made. Guests attending were Fran Coletti, Deanna Hanson, David Ferguson and David Schaefer.

2. Approval of Jan. 8, 2024 Minutes - Motion was made by Sarah and seconded by Dale to approve the minutes. Motion passed with no abstentions.

3. President's Welcome Message – Deborah shared her thoughts about feeling lucky to be where we are. We should not take for granted the privilege of working with Sac State and the Renaissance Society.

4. Reports

a. Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff – No reports of any RS member deaths.

b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry – Norv gave an excellent and comprehensive budget workshop. He then answered questions from the Board. See attached handouts. Committee chairs need to complete their budget requests and submit to Norv by April 19. The sole RS source of income is membership dues. The annual dues for RS have not been raised for several years. RS is not a 501 3C and therefore cannot apply for grants.

c. Office Manager: Amber Korb – The annual report is nearing completion. Enrollments have been smoother this semester than last. Amber will meet with the Small Business Center to explain what help RS is requesting to analyze data already in our system.

d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS – Dean Hyson was pleased that the Sac State faculty strike only lasted one day. Teacher and students are back on campus. New initiatives such as Combat U (a martial arts program with international connections) and a Black Honors College are being designed to attract more students. Foster youth and other disadvantaged populations will receive new recruitment emphasis. The transfer process from community colleges to Sac State will be simplified. Concern over budget continues with departments being asked to make 5% cut this year. Deborah asked for Dean Hyson's help with UEI. The continued dilemma with UEI has caused our Comcast to be cancelled as well as other services. Vendors have been denied payment. UEI has changed some of their processes without informing us. Dean Hyson agreed to assist with our problematic condition with UEI. This has been extremely frustrating and troublesome. Deborah asked permission to have a dog at one of the Forums. After being shown the Golden Plate Award (won for the third year in a row), Dean Hyson expressed the importance of this to Sac State and especially Dr. Wood. Debbie requested help in finding a system to take credit cards for payment at RS events

5. Decisions and Discussion:

a. Annual Report status - Debbie said it is ready for proofreading.

b. Orientation and Open House – Debbie remarked that the move of venue at the last minute showed how resilient RS can be. Approximately 120 attended. She has scheduled a review meeting for Tuesday, February 6. Debbie thanked Amber for her quick thinking and short response time for finding a venue.

- c. Diversity Proposal update – Deborah thanked Darryl for becoming our ambassador for the AME contingent. He will lead a campus tour.
- d. Program Leaders Workshop May 17, 2024 – Dale is processing the 4 pages of comments from the last workshop.
- e. Speaking and tabling events – Spring Membership Drive – Deborah spoke recently at a California Retired Teachers meeting. The Pride Fair is April 25 at the Hart Senior Center. Other tabling events include the Mission Oaks Senior Fair and a multi-cultural event at Sac State.
- f. Update on Sac Public Library Program/Hart Senior Center -RS has presentations ready to go but the library administration is slow to respond.
- g. MLK Jr. 25th Anniversary Celebration and March – Deborah hosted a table for AME representatives. Debbie and several RS members also attended. The new RS banner made a great display for the March. Deborah talked with Larry Lee who volunteered to publicize any joint event between the AME and RS.
- h. SMUD Partnership – SMUD requested RS members to be mentors to a group of underserved who are being taught skills to be future SMUD employees. Limited information is available. Sarah has contacts from her career at SMUD and can provide contacts. Debbie and Frank have multiple contacts at SMUD.
- i. Budget Workshop – Norv See attachment

6. Written Committee Reports

Statements of No Report: Long Range Planning

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie has RS business cards available for our members. Our total membership is 1743 including honorary members. We have 245 new members this semester. Debbie’s monthly report shows membership demographics and the “give something extra” donation amounts.
- b. Nominating – Susan reported that applications have been submitted for MAL positions. We are still looking for candidates for VP and Controller. Willingness to run for offices is limited. Interviews will be the week of March 4. Applications for all offices are due February 16.
- c. Program – Dale suggested class evaluations be required in order to improve content and delivery. This would be done with positive approach “Grow and Glow”. How can I make this a better class? We need an advisor to help with a diversity approach to our delivery of classes. Darryl Freeman has stepped up to be Co-Chair.
- d. Resource Development – Mike said Dean Hyson will introduce the speaker on Feb 27. UEI has clogged the arteries for resource development. This is another source of aggravation with UEI.
- e. Scholarship – Laurye - See monthly report.
- f. Technology – Sarah/Tom thanked Eric Levinson for his help in setting up all the computers for Open House. Sarah and Tom are anxious to see if there are any tech issues on this the first day of classes. Sarah helped a new member who had tech problems. Sarah suggested that there be feedback from first

time members about their issues if any with their first semester. Perhaps create a “New Member Experience”.

g. Volunteer Services – Carol - See monthly report.

h. Communications and Marketing –Rick – See monthly report

i. Finance and Administration – Norv thanked Ken Cross for initiating the Finance and Administration Committee in 2018. The Resource Development Committee was formed in 2019. Allen Keown suggested the “Give Something Extra” program.

j. Forum – Michele – The April 12 Forum speaker canceled but has been replaced with a speaker from last semester. Marty McKnew has agreed to coordinate the Forum notetakers. Michele is working on Fall Forum speakers.

8. Working Groups

Summer Program, 2024 - There have been two meetings. The theme will be Art, Music, History Around the World. Mary Ellen Burns has been working with Deborah and suggesting speakers.

Center for Small Business - Amber will be working with the Center for Small Business.

9. New or Urgent Business

The Help Desk has been staffed for the first day of spring classes.

10. Key Dates

a. February 5 – Renaissance classes begin

b. February 9 – Help Desk; First Friday Pizza

11. Adjourn—Mike made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jennifer Kerr.

12. Next Meeting: March 4, 2024 on Zoom



Budget
Workshop-FY24-25-

Submitted by Susan Brackenhoff