

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

Board of Directors Meeting Monday, July 11, 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	no
Past President, Ken Cross	x	Darryl O. Freeman	no
Vice President, vacant		Kathryn Tobias	no
		Walter Wilson	x

Committee Chairs	Present		
		Program Kathryn Tobias	no
C&M Lorraine Murphy	no	Resource Dev Nancy Findeisen	no
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry	x	Resource Dev Mike Pidd	x
Forum Michele Finerty	no	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 Barbara Davis-Lyman	x	University Services Pat Paul	no
Program Pam O'Brien	no	University Services Paula	no

Liaisons/Guests	Present		
		Weekly Update Rita Pasillas	x
Website Jennifer Kerr	x	Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS Dean Dianne Hyson	no
Recorder Lorraine Murphy	no	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 18 members present, 3 liaisons present, 12 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. Deborah is looking forward to the new RS environment with both live and technology-driven classes. The new year's agenda will mark commitment to **Transparency, Inclusivity and Fun.**

3. Approval of June 13, 2022 Minutes: Bob Benedetti moved and Ken Cross seconded the approval of the June 13, 2022 minutes.

4. Reports:

a. Secretary: Bob distributed a quick reference guide to “Robert’s Rules of Order” to all present. Deborah explained that in future meetings, a rotating volunteer would take minutes.

b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry introduced the newly hired RS office manager, Debra da Costa. Norv spoke highly of her expertise and the talent she brings to this part time position. All committee chairs have submitted signed budgets to Norv. 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. However, membership numbers are down so funding is down.

c. Office Manager: Debra da Costa, our new office manager, has been busy receiving calls about fall classes and creating new work flow procedures. She is working with program leaders, multiple office issues, training on transmittals, and signage for Rendezvous.

d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS: Dean Hyson sent best wishes for the new RS year but unfortunately was not available for today’s meeting.

5. Decisions and Discussion: (embedded)

a. Approve President’s appointment of Walter Wilson as Member at Large: Nominating Committee Chair Barbara Davis-Lyman reported that Stacie Walton, who was selected by the nominating committee and elected by the RS Board, has moved to Georgia and is now unavailable. Barbara commented that Walter Wilson, who was first alternate, is an outstanding candidate for MAL. Walter has years of experience in international trade, loves communication and likes to bring people together. Norv moved and Sarah Ryan-Roberts seconded President Deborah’s appointment of Walter Wilson to MAL. Motion carried. Walter expressed his willingness to serve.

b. Establish goals for the 2022-2023 Board of Directors: Deborah led a lengthy discussion of the need to increase our membership numbers. She identified this as our number one goal for the coming year. If current trends continue, it is estimated that RS will have only 83% of the membership we enjoyed last year. Membership is a job for ALL of us. We are all advocates and should diligently reach out to: organizations that we are a part of, neighborhood publications and meetings, FACEBOOK, past members, public radio, and our communities. Ken Cross emphasized that person-to-person conversation is one of the best tools for recruitment. There should be a repository of marketing materials and public releases. Other suggestions included human interest stories emphasizing the “AGE WELL” concept. The health aspect of RS should be highlighted. Debra da Costa, who has enormous experience in marketing, suggested brief targeted messages. There will be a variety of organization tables at Rendezvous where we can spread our membership message. All agreed that RS needs to replenish our membership numbers and that this is the responsibility of every RS member. Jeff Hendy expressed the need for a dedicated person to focus on membership. MDCE Chair Debbie Martinez is actively working on membership development. Rita Pasillas will be writing the Weekly Update and including recruitment articles.

c. Consider future meeting times, locations, and dates: This item was postponed due to time considerations but the August 8th meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. in the same location at the Dunbarton Clubhouse near Sac State Campus.

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. Communications and Marketing- Lorraine Murphy: Lorraine has been appointed the new chair.

b. Finance and Administration – Norv Wellsfry: No additional report than what was submitted.

c. Forum – Michele Finerty: Deborah thanked Michele and committee for a fine fall forum lineup.

d. Gerontology – Susan Brackenhoff: Susan reported a record year for gerontology volunteer hours.

e. Long Range Planning – Ken Cross: Ken and Kevin Bray will be starting work on this next month.

f. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie Martinez: Debbie announced the summer reading assignment for CSUS students and suggested we all read the book. The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law is a memoir by Haben Girma, disability rights advocate and first deafblind graduate of Harvard Law School.

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

h. Program – Pam Obrien and Kathryn Tobias: Pam and Kathryn are traveling this month.

i. Resource Development – Nancy Findeisen and Mike Pidd: Mike, the new chair, reported that Big Day of Giving went very well for RS. The committee is considering phone calls to special donors and possibly a benefactor dinner. Mike gave kudos to Nancy for her great dedication.

j. Rules – Bob Benedetti: No report

k. Scholarship – Laurye Brownfield: No report.

l. Technology – Jeff Hendy and Sarah Ryan-Roberts: Jeff and Sarah are working hard on the newly designed RS name badges. They have the technology to print name badges at Rendezvous. They have been giving technology host training and workshops.

m. University Services – Pat Paul and Paula: No report

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

8. Working Groups-

- a. Orientation and Rendezvous – Ken Cross: The Orientation walk through will be July 22. Much planning has gone into the day's events. There will be 76 tables this year.
- b. Summer Program- Deborah Seiler: Cleopatra event was well attended. Deborah noted that parking passes issued on July 1st may have made it easier to park/attend. There will be a feedback survey about the summer pilot program. July 22 will be the popular arboretum tour.

9. New or Urgent Business: The 150 free tickets to Music Circus were quickly spoken for. Jeff Hendy reminded everyone who needs tech support to contact Jeff or Sarah and NOT the university tech support office.

10. Key Dates:

June 1 Membership portal opened

August 1 Fall 2022 Catalog posts to RS website - Monday

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: August 8, 1 p.m. Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

Respectfully submitted by Susan Brackenhoff (for Bob Benedetti, Secretary)