

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting
June 14, 2021

1. OPENING

1.1. Call to Order: The meeting was held on Zoom and called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Ken Cross. In attendance were President Ken Cross, Past President David Abelson, Vice-President Barbara Davis-Lyman, Secretary Bob Benedetti, Controller Norv Wellsfry; Members at Large –Karen Martin, Deborah Seiler, Charles Wiseley; Committee Chairs – Susan Brackenhoff (new Gerontology Committee Chair), Christie Braziel, Evelyn Boggs, Chris Budwine, Nancy Findeisen, Jeff Hendy, Allan Keown, Sarah Ryan-Roberts, Cindy Suchanek and Tom Suchanek; SSIS Dean Dianne Hyson; and guests Cheryl Huffman, Jennifer Kerr, Lorraine Murphy, and Joy Skalbeck. Member not in attendance -Susan George.

1.2 Introductory Remarks: 1) Ken stated that Board meetings are not closed- they are open to members unless a confidential personnel or legal issue is being discussed. 2) Thank you to outgoing Board members Evelyn Boggs, Barbara Davis-Lyman, Susan George, and Karen Martin. Each will receive a certificate of appreciation for their dedication to RS.

1.3 Announcements: condolences to Board Past President David Abelson on the passing of his sister.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Additions to the Agenda: none

2.2 Approval of the Agenda- Motion/Second - M/S – Seiler/Davis-Lyman- unanimous approval.

3. REPORTS/UPDATES FROM OFFICERS, STAFF, CSUS LIAISON

3.1 Secretary's Report

- Approve minutes from May 17, 2021, Board Meeting- **M/S** – Benedetti/Wiseley - unanimous approval. Ken reminded the Board that it is important for each to review the minutes for accuracy.

- Condolences – Rufus Smith
- Bob Benedetti stated that due to virtual meetings, he has not been able to give new members of the Board their copy of “Robert’s Rules of Order.” He will distribute when there is an in-person meeting. In the meantime, the book and summaries are available on Amazon.

3.2 Controller’s Report – see 4.5

3.3 Office Manager’s Report – membership registration is going well.

3.4 CSUS Liaison Report – 1) Dean Hyson is back on campus. 2) Many moving parts for repopulating campus. 3) 2021- 22 budget looks better than expected. 4) RS has support of President Nelsen. He wants RS on campus, but the students have priority. 5) By the end of June, RS needs to send Dean Hyson a list of specific classroom requests for Fall 2021.

4. SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 RS Board Policymaking & Procedural Responsibilities

- Two issues – 1) clarify the Board’s policy making and procedural responsibilities; and 2) ensure that Board meetings and decision-making actions are consistent with these responsibilities.
- Motion 1- Unresolved matters between Committees or Officers concerning RS policies and/or finances shall be presented to the Board of Directors for discussion, direction, and final decision. **M/S** – Abelson/C. Suchanek - unanimous approval.
- Motion 2 – In accordance with the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, motions to “Amend” and/or “Substitute” proposals being presented to the Board for decision shall be allowed. **M/S** – Abelson/Benedetti – unanimous approval.
- Parliamentarian Bob Benedetti stated that both motions are consistent with Robert’s Rules of Order.

4.2 RS Honorary Memberships for Forum Speakers

- Proposal to give a one-year honorary membership to each Forum speaker. This is viewed as a means to attract additional members through the speaker’s network.
- Suggestion that recipient be asked to help market RS in return – e.g., video asking their network to join RS.

- David Abelson will bring proposal on policy for honorary memberships to July meeting. A vote on this agenda item will be taken after the proposal is approved.

4.3 Logo Design Update

- The workgroup was evenly split on which version of the proposed logo should be selected.
- Proposal to survey members to determine which logo is first choice.
- Straw poll – should the workgroup poll members on their logo preference? Opposed – Wellsfry/Abstain-Abelson/all others in favor. Workgroup will conduct poll and bring the results to the Board.

4.4 Program Committee Budget Presentation

- The Program Committee Chairs, Allan Keown and Cindy Suchanek, discussed their disagreement with the Administration and Finance Committee's decision to budget a total of \$4,000.00 for the two catalog consultants for 2021-22. They stated that the catalog serves two purposes – 1) to showcase RS programs and 2) to bring in new members. The concept that the catalog is a key marketing tool and that it ensures sustainability was discussed.
- Cindy and Allan continue to request funding of an additional \$5,000.00 for the Spring 2022 Catalog.
- Cindy and Allan requested an opportunity to negotiate additional funding for the Spring 2022 Catalog in September 2021.

4.5 RS Final 2021-2022 Annual Budget

- The final budget is the same as the one proposed at the May Board Meeting. This budget assumes status quo. It is a deficit budget, but the RS reserve can absorb the deficit for one more year.
- The Technology Committee requested the purchase of an Apple Computer. This request was not included in the budget.
- The Program Committee asked that their original request for \$9,000.00 for consultant fees be restored. The request was denied. The Program Committee will receive \$4,000.00 per catalog for consultant fees.

- Norv stated that Consultant Vanessa Perez has not signed her Independent Contractor Agreement and has not provided an invoice for the Spring 2021 Catalog.
- Motion that the recommended budget be adopted. M/S Wellsfry/Findeisen
 - Norv tabled the motion to adopt the recommended budget while the Board discusses the contracting process and methods to improve recruitment and retention of members.
 - Directive 1 – The Board requests that the Chairs of the Program Committee, Communications/Marketing Committee, Membership Committee and Resource Development Committee meet as soon as possible to discuss effective forms of marketing the Renaissance Society's programs. Topics may include, but are not limited to, the role of the Course Catalogue in such marketing efforts. The Committee Chairs are also requested to provide an update on these discussions at the BOD business meeting in September or October, at which time they may ask for further directions and/or decisions from the Board if there is consensus on future program marketing efforts. M/S Abelson/Seiler-unanimous approval.
 - Directive 2- the Finance and Administration Committee will develop a process for contracting services. M/S – Findeisen/Abelson-unanimous approval.
 - The motion to take the budget from the table and the motion to pass the budget were merged and it passed with scattered abstentions.

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES – waiting on lease for office move. All other updates postponed until July due to time constraints.

5.10 Announcements, Board Direction and Next Steps - none

6.0 REPORTS – see Board Packet.

7.0 NEW OR URGENT BUSINESS – none

8.0 ADJOURNMENT -there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

9.0 NEXT BOARD MEETING – July 12, 2021, at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Shari Lowen (for Bob Benedetti, Secretary)

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