

THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, March 14, 2022 (1:00 to 3:30 p.m.)

1. Opening

1.1 **Call to Order:** The meeting was held on Zoom and called to order at 1:01 p.m. by President Ken Cross. In attendance were: President Ken Cross, Past President David Abelson, Vice-President Deborah Seiler; Members at Large – Michele Finerty, Pam O'Brien, and Chuck Wiseley; Committee Chairs – Susan Brackenhoff, Laurye Brownfield, Nancy Findeisen, Jeff Hendy, Debbie Martinez, Lorraine Murphy, Sarah Ryan-Roberts, Cindy Suchanek, and Tom Suchanek; Staff Amber Korb; and Guests Elizabeth Deuso, Jennifer Kerr, Dean Dianne Hyson, Barbara Davis-Lyman; Joining late –Committee Chair Darryl O. Freeman, Secretary Bob Benedetti; Members not in attendance - Controller Norv Wellsfry, Allan Keown, Christie Braziel.

1.2 **Introductory Remarks:** After 18th March masks are optional on campus.

1.3 Announcements (New Information): None.

2. Agenda

2.1 **Additions to Agenda** (New/Urgent Business): None.

2.2 **Approval of Agenda:** [ACTION item – VOTE] **Motion/Second - M/S** – Seiler/O'Brien - **unanimous approval.**

3. Updates/Reports from Officers, Staff, CSUS Liaison

3.1 **Secretary's Report** (Bob Benedetti):

Bob Benedetti will be joining about an hour late, so Ken Cross led this section.

- February Meeting Minutes Correction (Wisely): Spell out abbreviations the first time they're used. Example: Item 5.3.2 "COP" and "THUS"
- Correction (Seiler): List Members Present: Liz Deuso should be guest, Lorraine Murphy should be Committee Chair; 5.5.1 replace "worked on it" with "worked on the ad in a local print publication"; Vice President for PR should be Nathan Dietrich not Jeannie Wong; Dean Jenny Murphy and Deborah Hunt are who they met with from the College of Continuing Education.
- Cross: Amendments will be sent to Lorene to make corrections.
- Approve Draft Minutes for February 14, 2022 Meeting as amended. [ACTION item – VOTE] **M/S**– Brackenhoff/Seiler - **unanimous approval.**
- Condolences: David Anthony
- Tom Suchanek: How will Renaissance policy on masks reflect the campus adjustment?
Cross: Same as campus. Masks optional, continue to encourage social distancing, self-attestation of vaccination.

3.2 **Controller's Report** (Norv Wellsfry):

Norv Wellsfry had a conflict so Ken Cross gave the report.

- Committee budget proposals due 4th April. Send to Norv. Direct any questions to Norv.

3.3 **Office Manager's Report** (Norv Wellsfry):

- Again, Ken reporting. Nothing much to report. Lorene and Amber are holding down the fort and alternating taking minutes.

3.4 **CSUS Liaison's Report:** (Dianne Hyson):

- Anti-Racism Convocation held on campus was recorded. Check out Dr. Love.
- Lifting the mask mandate: Covid Advisory Team working with President Nelsen to follow public health policy. Many faculty will be asking students to continue wearing masks. Many

ongoing conversations and instructions.

- Hiring Season: 55 new faculty last year, about the same expected this year.
- Budget Season as well.
- Registrar no longer employed by Sac State. Interim people in place. No details available.
- Commencement planning: at least 9,000 students graduating.

4. Specific Agenda Items

4.1 Dr. Donald R. Gerth Celebration of Life - Donation to the Gerth Memorial Scholarship

Fund: (Deborah Seiler and Nancy Findeisen)

- Celebration of Life to be held Sunday March 20th.
- (Seiler): Appreciation of Dr. Gerth's Contribution. Suggests Renaissance members get together a donation. Nancy Findeisen suggested the donation come from the general fund.
- Donation to Gerth Memorial Scholarship Fund from RS General Fund for \$1,000. [ACTION item – VOTE] M/S- Seiler/Findeisen – **unanimous approval**.

4.2 RS Diversity & Inclusion Award 2022: (Debbie Martinez & Darryl Omar Freeman)

- See packet. Annual award. Nominating Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ) Director Dr. Manuel Barajas. [ACTION item – VOTE] M/S- Martinez/Seiler – **unanimous approval**
- Cross: Award will be presented at the Annual Meeting on Monday May 19th 1:00-2:00pm on Zoom. Scholarship recipients will be presented as well.

4.3 Social Media Update: (Lorraine Murphy)

- Powerpoint Presentation: How to join Twitter. (36:10)
 - (Brownfield): Receives tweets, does that mean she already follows Renaissance? (Murphy): Yes.
 - (Seiler): Has set up account, but doesn't receive tweets. (Murphy): Have to follow pages. Will work together offline.
 - (Martinez): How often or when do RS Tweets go out? How should we get suggested tweets to Murphy? (Murphy): Sends out tweets after the weekly update, but spreads them out over W, Th, F, Sat. Others as they come up. Email anything for Twitter to Murphy including pictures.
 - (Kerr): Likes the way Murphy is doing it, one item at a time. Twitter will bug you to get the app but it's not necessary.
 - (Finerty): Already has account. Does she need to set up separate account for this? (Murphy): Nope, you can follow us with your current account. Search for RenaissanceSOC1.
 - (Findeisen): How do we share tweets? (Murphy): At the bottom of each tweet you can retweet, share on Facebook, heart, share with family members.

(Dean Hyson leaves meeting)

- (Cross): Twitter and other methods of external communication are increasingly important for recruitment.
- (Seiler): Now that RS has external Facebook page, what should be the purpose of the Internal Facebook page? Possible item for later discussion.

4.4 RS Technology Workshop 2022: (Jeff Hendy and Sarah Ryan-Roberts)

- Powerpoint Presentation: RS and Technology. Introduced by Ryan-Roberts, Presented by Hendy. Where we started, how we've changed, and where we think we're heading.
 - (Ryan-Roberts): Acknowledgement to Brownfield for Tech-Host organization.
 - (Seiler): Progress is remarkable. Tech Committee is the nerve center of the organization.

- (Wisely): If we go back to in person Rendezvous, how will that work? Used to sign up at individual stations, now would they have to run back and forth to a registration station? (Hendy): That's what they've done in the past, had a station with 5 or 6 laptops, and it worked well. (Cross): going to have a meeting to discuss.
- (Abelson): Jeff Hendy and Tom Holt started the tech development in 2015. Then Ryan-Roberts and Mike Agron in the pivot to zoom. (Hendy): Al Wolfgang first suggested CCE.
- (Martiznez): What does our CCE contract include in terms of support? (Hendy): They changed the system upfront, annually renegotiate how many changes will be needed and how much we'll have to pay. Debbie Hunt at CCE putting together 2022/23 proposal. Will be submitted as part of budget. IRT provides classroom and zoom support etc.
- (Tom Suchanek): Forum requires zoom webinar to accommodate number of participants. Much more complicated than zoom meetings. Kudos to Chris Smith for his work.
- (Findeisen): Used to have to rely on paper copies of membership lists and catalogs. Shout-out to Marian Kyle et al.

Break 2:15-2:20

5. Committee Updates:

- (Cross): Encourages Committees to continue writing up and submitting any reports by email.

5.1 Nominating Committee: (Barbara Davis-Lyman)

- Important to have strong candidates for the Board.
- Have received 9 Members at Large (MAL) applications and 1 for President.
- Committee includes Warren Bonta, Susan Brackenhoff, and Shari Lowen. In the process of scheduling interviews.
- They will have recommendations at the next board meeting.
- (Wisely): What are the MAL Term Limits? (Davis-Lyman): 2 years, and there are 3 positions.

5.2 Program committee: (Cindy Suchanek and Pam O'Brien)

- (O'Brien): Recruiting using Weekly Update, Recorder, Slide sent out to seminar leaders to share, External Facebook page, and Brainstorming Sessions. Cindy updated application to teach. Application goes out today with an April 1st deadline. 13 new potential programs already.
- Theme for next semester: The Joys of Learning. Putting out request for photos in support of theme. Lorraine will post on Twitter as well.
 - (Seiler): Should a link to the application go in Weekly Update? Yes please.
- (Cindy Suchanek): Lots of enthusiasm for on-campus teaching. Trying to organize single zoom sessions grouped around a theme on Wednesdays and Thursdays like Big History and the Tuesday Speaker Series to encourage hesitant presenters. Hoping to encourage hesitant presenters by asking for the smaller one-session commitment.
 - (Wisely): Chip Zemple is nervous about Hyflex. (Hendy): Acknowledges the difficulty of hybrid class management especially during discussion. It's an ongoing challenge.
 - (Kerr): Link goes to draft website. (Cindy Suchanek): Will send updated version.
 - (Cross): Regarding Hyflex, he would be happy to meet with Chip to answer questions. Practice is key.
 - (Brownfield): Need more tech hosts. Should be recruiting in every class. Tech hosts

also need more experience with Hyflex.

- (Abelson): Should emphasize to prospective leaders that they're not required to use the technology if they don't want to. If we can get them in the corral, we can worry about getting the saddle on later. (Cindy Suchanek): Incorporated the options in the new application. Thinking of splitting the workshop into introductory and advanced to help ease the new people in.
- (Benedetti): Wants to be able to work on application all at once, or copy the questions to work on them before submitting them. Not very user friendly. (Hendy): It's a limitation of the Constant Contact system. (Wisely): suggest sending a word version that people can fill out first and then copy and paste into the form. Also suggest a Google Form instead of Constant Contact. (Cindy Suchanek): Will look at it for the next iteration. (Cross): Seconds Wisely's Word suggestion.

- (O'Brien): to Brownfield suggests creating slide to recruit tech hosts.

5.3 **Technology committee:** (Sarah Ryan-Roberts and Jeff Hendy)

- Can do Hyflex from the Union building.

5.4 **Membership, Diversity, and Community Engagement (MDCE) committee:**

(Debbie Martinez & Darryl Omar Freeman)

- See Membership Report.
- Recruiting for U Mentor Program. This is separate from the Gerontology Mentorship program. They have reduced the commitment to one semester. Already had about 15 RS members express an interest.
- MLK Jr. Event was postponed due to Covid to March 26th. Will have at least one table of RS people.

5.5 **Communications and Marketing committee:** (Deborah Seiler and Lorraine Murphy)

- (Seiler): In celebration mode. Brainstorming to begin again soon.
- (Murphy): Please send pictures of any on-campus or in-person events so she can post them. Seconded by Cindy Suchanek.

5.6 **2022 Summer Speaker Program Working Group:** (Deborah Seiler)

- Almost have presentations are filled. Needs to work on social aspect. Joyce Spalbeck(sp?) has set up 2 planetarium tours, lunch after presentations, other fun things?
- Bus trip yesterday to CA Youth Symphony. Went very well. Fun excursion. Cynthia (?) organized.

5.7 **Resource Development committee:** (Nancy Findeisen)

- Planning a more extensive report for next board meeting once she has the 3rd quarter report from the University.
- Revenue is up.

5.8 **Finance & Administration committee:** (Norv Wellsfry)

- Budget proposals due 4th April.

5.9 **Scholarship committee** – (Laurye Brownfield)

- Thanks to Nancy and the Revenue Development Committee.
- Transition to Sac State system going well, everyone on the committee has started the scoring process.

5.10 **Forum committee:** (Tom Suchanek and Michele Finerty)

- Speakers for Fall- picking from 60 recommendations. Selection is ongoing. Forwarded an email with quotes from speakers applauding the technology committee. Shout-out to Chris Smith.

5.11 **Gerontology committee:** (Susan Brackenhoff)

- New contact person: Katheryn Koss (?) taking Donna Jensen's place (who is on sabbatical)
- There will be 5 students attending the Aging Society of America conference [RS is paying \$300 each for their attendance and membership in the organization]. More information next month.

5.12 Announcements, Board Direction and Next Steps:

- Cross and Seiler talked to Flick Flickinger (new Chair for Theater and Dance) trying to jumpstart ushering volunteer work. Recruiting.

6.: Reports

6.1 Technology Committee Report (Jeff Hendy) (see **Attachment 3**)

6.2 (MDCE) Committee Report (DebbieMartinez & Darryl Omar Freeman) (see **Attachment 4**)

6.3 Scholarship Committee Report (Laurye Brownfield) (see **Attachment 5**)

7. New or Urgent Business: None.

8. Adjourn: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 pm.

9. Next Board meeting: 1:00 p.m., Monday, April 11, 2022

Key dates:

Apr. 18-May 6 Board elections online – Tellers' Report

May 6 RS programs end on Friday.

May 9 Annual General Meeting on Zoom: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Monday

May 16 RS monthly Board of Directors' meeting (one week later)

Amber Korb (for Bob Benedetti, Secretary)