

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

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

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
C&M Lorraine Murphy	A	Program Pam O'Brien	X
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry	X	Program Kathryn Tobias	X
Forum Michele Finerty	A	Resource Dev. Mike Pidd	X
LRP Ken Cross	X	Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	A
MDCE Debbie Martinez	X	Technology Sarah Ryan-Roberts	X
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	A	Volunteer Services Carol Barake	X

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Website Jennifer Kerr	A	Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin; Kristan Sarve-Gorham	A
Weekly Update Loretta Burdeaux	A	Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS /Dean Dianne Hyson	A
Recorder Jim Hodges	A	Office Manager Amber Korb	A
Guests: Richard Atkinson	X	Liaison Ranny Eckstrom	A

- **Call to Order 10 AM May 1, 2023**

- **President's Welcome Message:**

- Deborah Seiler announced that the R/S party was a success yesterday, April 30 at Arden Park. Allan Keown hosted the event that included Thai food and a variety of diverse food that members made. Freeport Bakery was used for two delicious cakes. George Connor and his wife provided the musical entertainment and was accompanied at times by David Abelson, Michael Herscher and Jim Hodges.
- **Also**, we are preparing for our Last **Friday Forum** for this semester on May 12th which also will be our R/S annual meeting. Laurye Brownfield will introduce our newest scholar recipients followed by an i-Movie prepared by Mike Pidd that will have 2-minute testimonials and thanks given by the scholarship recipients.
- **"Special Programs"** currently has nearly \$14,000 in funds. This is a 19th amendment project that must be used in conjunction with Sacramento State.
- Doctor Rachel August is a Sacramento State psychology professor. She is currently conducting interviews with 36 volunteer R/S members regarding members' life journeys, specifically in Renaissance. Members love varied classes and social events, but technology is a mixed blessing. Our ZOOM enrollments downside is that we are distanced and losing our personal touch. We are going to ask our instructors for suggestions to follow up in their classes on how to bridge this gap.
- The Annual Meeting Planning Group will meet on ZOOM one more time to finalize the events scheduled for May 12th.

After the meeting we will celebrate with cookies and lemonade at the Engrained Restaurant.

- **Approval of April 3, 2023 Minutes:** Bob Benedetti moved approval and Ken Cross seconded.

- **Reports**

- a. Secretary: Bob Benedetti: 3 condolences sent out this month including David Warren who was not only a member but also a program leader. Allan Keown will write an article regarding David for the Recorder.
- b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry : See Attached. Norv has listed our 2023/2024 budget, with all of our current activities. More than 75% of our expenses are fixed.
- c. Office Manager: Amber Korb (absent)
- d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson College of SSIS (absent)

- **Decisions and Discussion:**

- a. Budget Update
- b. GSSD Update: Mike Pidd reported that the 2023 GSSD was a big success. We had a goal of \$5,000 and we exceeded that goal with a total of \$11,795 in the 36-

hour period. Dean Hyson texted Deborah Seiler and said “Renaissance is on fire!” We have nearly 1,700 members and only 46 of us donated. We will access this minority and see what we can do to improve on this next year. Possible ideas are to have a slide to all classes the week of GSSD and have a soft opening to donate as early as Monday of the GSSD week. We hope to receive a report from Sac State on our donors soon.

- c. Branding Update: The Renaissance Society is now a sub-identity to Sacramento State. We can follow the look and feel of Sac State publications or have our own look and feel for our communication material. Karen Booth is the Sac State branding officer who oversaw the meeting last Thursday April 27th. Debbie Martinez and Amber Korb will work with Karen. Our RAC cards will be printed prior to next semester for distribution, hopefully before our Summer session.
- d. Registration Update: Ken Cross reported that we currently have 1,650 paid members and 175 comped members. Our attrition rate is about 20-25% annually so we are always in need of new Renaissance members.
- e. Diversity Training: Debbie Martinez reported we would like to promote this with our program leaders and our board members. We are in preliminary discussions on a 90-minute training seminar to be handled by a consulting group or others. If we do have to pay for our speakers, we intend to issue a RFP. We have budgeted \$3,000 for this project. We are also considering a “Long Talk” that can communicate to all our leaders and members possibly through ZOOM that will touch on diversity, respect, and ways to be sensitive on how we approach our classes and discussion. This may be something we can arrange within a cultural assessment with Sacramento State.
Ken Cross mentioned that we collectively as a group need a common vision. Frank Martinez(possibly) Deborah Seiler and Ken Cross will table this to discuss as a panel to achieve a accurate definition of what to do with any diversity issues.
- f. Election Update: Sarah Ryan-Roberts said that voting is still open through May 5. We currently have enough votes to certify all positions and the election of our new officers. As of May 1 we have 570 ballots returned.

- **Written Committee Reports**

- g. Statements of No Report: Communications & Marketing; Finance & Administration; Nominating; Scholarship

- **Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs**

- h. Finance and Administration – Norv (see earlier report and attachment)
 - i. Forum – Michele (absent)
 - j. Long Range Planning – Ken
 - k. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie (see above notes reported earlier)
 - l. Nominating – Susan (absent)

- m. Program – Pam and Kathryn : May 19th is a workshop put on by the program committee. This workshop will be on ZOOM and in person. Mike Agron will discuss issues with hybrid presentations and Jay McKeeman will discuss SIGs. Deborah will lead a conversation about membership and diversity. The availability of Sac County libraries is diminishing. Deborah is inviting the SPL director to speak on this at a future time.
 - n. Resource Development – Mike - (reported earlier on GSSD)
 - o. Scholarship – Laurye - Final meeting with her group is next Monday to put on the final touches to the Forum and introductions of the scholarship recipients. Mike Pidd made a video to show at the forum for the Scholarship Committee.
 - p. Technology – Sarah : Marian Kile has helped out immensely to give up to date information on our Sacramento State database. Ken Cross will hand off to Debbie and Marian the Sacramento State Database and reports will now be generated by the technology group.
 - q. Volunteer Services – Carol Barake is waiting for more data to make a more informative report in June.
 - r. Communications and Marketing (absent)
- **Working Groups**
 - s. Summer 2023 Program WG
 - t. Annual Meeting Planning group
- **New or Urgent Business** : Unfinished business. The next scholarship endowment is funded by past donations. Norv Wellsfry moved to name this next endowment for Past Sac State President Donald R. and Beverly Gerth. This was seconded by Ken Cross. This will be announced at our annual meeting on May 12th!
- **Key Dates**
 - April 10/ May 5—Elections
 - May 3 – ACC Telethon
 - May 7 – First Friday
 - May 12—Annual meeting
 - May 19 – Program Leaders Workshop
 - May 20 – 31 – Registration Portal closed
 - June 1 – Registration Portal for 2023-2024 opens
 - June 9 -- First Summer Program
- **Next Meeting:**
 - June 5, 2023, at 10 am on Zoom

- **Adjournment:** Bob Benedetti moved to adjourn our May meeting at 12:50 pm, seconded by Mike Pidd.

Respectfully submitted by Mide Pidd for Bob Benedetti.