

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Jackie Lamb	x	Carol Stanford	x
Vice President, Sean Tracy	x	Anne Rewell	x
Secretary, Janet Heath	x	Marian Sheppard	x
Controller, Dave Ferguson	x	Mike Blixt	x
Asst. Controller, Thom Gilbert	x	Mahnaz Khazari	
Past President, Deanna Hanson	x	Bob Silva	x

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
Tech Co-Chairs Kevin Collins, Tom Nelson	x	Program Chair: Sandy Britton Deborah Martinez	x
Finance & Administration: Dave Ferguson Asst. Controller Thom Gilbert	x	Resource Development Chair: Mike Pidd	
Forum Chair: Anne Rewell, Sigrid Bathen	x	Scholarship Chair: Sue McGinty	x
Volunteer Services Chair: Pam O'Brien	x	Nominating Chair: Sean Tracy	x
Membership Co-Chairs: Susan Wheeler, Michael Blixt	x	Communications/Marketing Rick Atkinson	x
Connections, Deborah Seiler	x		

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Dr. David Lang, Liaison	x	Office Manager: Amber Korb	x
Recorder, Carolyn Monson	x		

- **Call to Order** -President Jackie Lamb called the meeting to order at 10:00 am at The Clara Studios.
- **Approval of Minutes – Janet Heath** - Rick moved to approve the August 3, 2026 minutes and Deanna seconded. Membership voted to approve the minutes.
- **President's Welcome**

The first week of classes was launched with only a few classroom space glitches.

Jackie met with Dean Frances and attended the CSUS meeting of department heads to discuss the Holiday Cabaret. Many departments have shown interest in participating. The next step is to strategize on how the event will function.

Jackie reviewed the results of the latest member survey taken after Open House/Discovery Day. There was a good response from people willing to do short-term tasks for RS.

The Food Pantry celebration will take place on September 14 with 2 sessions.

Jackie and Dale Good continue to meet with Sacramento city officials regarding availability of classroom space in city facilities at a reduced cost or free.

Jackie reminded committee chairs and others of the importance of respecting the work of other committees with constructive suggestions and to avoid interference with their work.

The Executive Committee will be developing standing rules on the definition of members and nonmembers of RS. SIGs will now be asked to take attendance to provide evidence on the number of nonmembers attending SIG events.

A cash management process has been created for the appropriate handling of the brown envelope donations collected in first Friday classes. Pam and Dave will continue to fine tune.

- **Sac State Update**

Dean David Lang, SSIS Liaison reported that several initiatives are being developed including a summer camp program with more of an academic focus intended for children and possibly mature audiences. This will create a new revenue source for the university.

Leveraging the success of the Black Honors College, the university is discussing expanding the concept to an Academies of Distinction.

The Department of Interdisciplinary Studies has been renamed and is now the Department of Integrative Studies.

A program to support staff and students to attend Sacramento Speaker Series is being developed.

The Dean has proposed an activity that will bring departments heads together to discuss their ongoing areas of interest or research in an attempt to find commonalities among departments that could result in collaborations.

New degree programs are being discussed. The first would be an undergraduate program in public affairs and the second is degree in AI governance. A third program has been proposed in fire science as it relates to environmental science.

The Provost has requested that Dean Lang develop, in collaboration with RS, an MOU between the two entities. RS will review its wish list and deal breakers for RS and then meet with CSUS representatives.

- **Office Manager** – Amber Korb.

Amber reported that current RS membership is up to 1678, a significant increase from last year at this time.

The attendance at the Open House/Discovery Day was an all-time high.

Every year there are a number of members who come into the office asking for help in registering for class which, some theorize, is a way to get into receiving priority in getting classes that are closed. It was suggested that The Weekly Update include that membership registration is still open and that those who are hesitant to register due to concern about class availability should contact the office. This will save the office staff the challenge of refunding membership fees to those not wishing to register.

Discussion was held on the uncertainty of room assignments and their capacity when determining how many can enroll in a class. RS's goal is to support members in signing up for desired classes. The management of waitlists and no shows is a responsibility of the program leaders.

The raw data from the Open House/ Discovery Day survey was emailed to the board today.

- **New Business**

- Tracking Goals and Objectives – Sean Tracy. Sean has been working with committee chairs on the development of measurable goals and objectives. Sean said that he was available to help tweak committee goals and objectives.
- 40th anniversary celebration- Rick Atkinson. The winery tour is scheduled for October 1. Sign-ups have been slow and alternative plans include hiring a smaller bus.

- Special funds committee update (Deborah, Deanna, Susan, Jackie)- Kim Nalder will be producing a podcast in October. A RFP was sent to CSUS faculty and interested RS members asking for presentations on the topic of democracy. There have been few proposals received and the committee has extended the submission deadline to September 14.
- New Member Reception will be held Monday, September 28 from 5-7:00 pm at the Nepenthe Clubhouse in Campus Commons. Those who have joined RS in the Spring 2026 or Fall 2026 semesters will be invited. All board members and membership committee members are expected to attend. The cost will be around \$36 with new members paying a lower amount supplemented by RS funds.
- **Committee Reports by Committee Chairs and discussion:**
 - Program – Sandy Britton. The committee held their first meeting last week. The committee is planning a program leaders workshop at the end of October. They will be focusing their planning on identifying activities to entice program leaders to attend the event and how to support program leaders to lighten their responsibilities.
 - Technology – Tom Nelson/Kevin Collins. Currently reaching out to other committees to collaborate. The committee goals and objectives should be met by the end of the year
 - Scholarship – Sue McGinty. First meeting will be September 14.
 - Forum – Anne Rewell/Sigrid Bathen – Forum sign-ups have been very good. Looking for overflow rooms for high interest presentations. The committee is working on ideas for how to take attendance and how to identify walk-ins to help in managing classroom space. There has been a correction to the room for forums to Mendocino 1005.
 - Resource Development – Mike Pidd. See submitted report.
 - Communications & Marketing – Rick Atkinson. Continuing to look for an additional writer for the Weekly Update. Kathy Hart reported to Rick that RS

Facebook views hit 27,000 last month—a massive increase from previous months. Including pictures in the postings may have contributed to this surge.

- **Nominating – Sean Tracy.** The committee will have a brainstorming session on the design and objectives for the group on September 14 and schedule a first meeting for later in the month. Board members are encouraged to talk with members to assess skills and potential as board members.
- **Volunteer Services – Pam O’Brien.** A help desk was available on the first day of on campus classes. Many badges are still waiting for members to pick up. Distribution and return of brown donation envelopes still needs some work, which Pam and Dave will be working on.
- **Membership –Mike Blixt.** New members have joined the committee however most of the work is being done by a few members. Looking forward to a presentation at El Hogar. It is a consortium of 250 senior related services. The new members pizza party will be September 11 for those joining RS in Spring and Fall 2026.
- **Finance and Administration Budget Discussion – Dave Ferguson.** RS finances are in good shape. Efforts continue on addressing issues with UEI. It was moved by Sue and seconded by Deborah to move \$6000 from the RS scholarship account to the Endowment account to fulfill the monetary requirements for the next scholarship endowment. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- **Connections – Deborah Seiler.** The Ohana walk is coming up on September 19. Board members are encouraged to attend. A \$45 fee includes lunch, T-shirts and “swag”. RS will have an information table at the event. Celebration Arts will be doing the play “Dot”. This is an external connection activity.

Key Dates

- Executive Committee Meeting, September 28, 1:00
- Food Pantry 10th Anniversary – September 14th – 12:30 to 2:00 invitation only guests 10:00, public 12:30

- New Member reception – September 28, 5-7:00 pm
- Wine Tour – October 1, 9:45
- Holiday Cabaret – November 12
- Next BOD Meeting – October 5

Adjourn: Rick made a motion, seconded by Sue to adjourn. Approved.