

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes for September 11, 2023

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler	P	Carol Barake	P
Vice President, Debbie Martinez	P	Dale Good	P
Secretary, Susan Brackenhoff	P	Janet Heath	P
Controller, Norv Wellsfry	P	Frank Martinez	P
Past President, Ken Cross	P	Kathryn Tobias	P
		Vacant	

Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
C&M Richard Atkinson	P	Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	P
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry	P	Program Kathryn Tobias	P
Forum Michele Finerty	P	Resource Dev. Mike Pidd	P
LRP Ken Cross	P	Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	P
MDCE Debbie Martinez	P	Technology Sarah Ryan-Roberts	P
		Volunteer Services Carol Barake	P

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Website Jennifer Kerr	P	Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	A
Weekly Update/Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux	A	Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS /Dean Dianne Hyson	P
Recorder Jim Hodges	A	Office Manager Amber Korb	P
Guests:			

1. **Call to Order:** President Deborah Seiler called the Renaissance Society Board meeting to order at 10:04 am on Sept 11, 2023 at the Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse.
2. **Approval of August 7, 2023 Minutes:** Richard Atkinson moved to approve the August minutes; Janet Heath seconded.
3. **President's Welcome Message:** Deborah welcomed all, especially Dean Dianne Hyson who was able to attend in person and Norv Wellsfry who has been recovering after a medical situation. Kevin Bray has resigned from the Board. Kevin was complimented for completing the Long Range Plan with Ken Cross. Deborah said to be cautious of scam email messages pretending to be her.
4. **Reports:**
 - a. Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff - Susan thanked everyone for changing the process of submitting committee reports to her instead of Deborah. She reported that sadly three Renaissance

members have passed away. Condolences have been sent to the families of Denis McGinty, Charles Fletcher and Jan Summers.

- b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry - Renaissance has a surplus this year in excess of \$16,000, in part because of the temporary vacancy of the office manager. There are two scholarship endowments fully funded. Chris Budwine generously donated another \$15,000. Norv pointed out that since he could be a single point of failure without a designated backup, he needs to find a knowledgeable backup for Controller functions.
- c. Office Manager: Amber Korb has been helping with financial matters in Norv's absence.
- d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS - Dean Hyson expressed her pleasure about the energy and humanness that new Sac State President Wood has been displaying all over campus. He prefers to be referred to as "President Wood". There are many factors that may lead to increased faculty demands this year. Negotiations are pending. She has had a one-on-one meeting with President Wood and was able to speak highly of Renaissance Society. He is highly interested in the student food pantry and recognizes the huge support we give to it. He is very involved with campus activities and does not hesitate to shake things up from the old ways of operating.

5. Decisions and Discussion:

- a. Meeting time changes – No need for action.
- b. Annual Report status – Debbie needs photos of members sent to her.
- c. Long Range Planning implementation report - Ken and Kevin created a high level report that should have monthly check points. Deborah reported on the findings and 5 recommendations. She has some preliminary ideas on how to address them. See Diversity Proposal.
- d. Diversity Proposal - Deborah noted we finally have numbers about our membership makeup. We are 81% white, under 3% Hispanic, African American, etc - as seen on Debbie's membership chart. When compared to the Sacramento census data, it is evident our membership is out of step with the community. Ideas were floated on how to increase the diversity numbers in our membership. Deborah proposed a new way to increase diversity by offering forty free memberships to a designated group of diverse members of other organizations. Their members might feel more comfortable attending with their friends. Renaissance would need to find an "external champion" in their group to carry the torch for this project. There would also need to be an "internal champion" within Renaissance so the two could interact and support membership efforts within their given groups. One example given was the energy from the Sacramento Public Library/RS collaboration years ago. Ken reiterated the importance of having internal champions within an organization to lead growth in memberships. Currently, our closest ties are with ACC (who can supply their own transportation). Laurye Brownfield moved to move forward with this proposal; Ken seconded it. Vote was favorable with two abstentions. A working group will be formed.
- e. President Wood's Fall Address - Deborah sent a link to President Wood's address. Please watch. The President noted that many scholarships have been unused because they are engineered to look like the donors.
- f. Carlton Senior Living agreement - Roberta Gleason invited Ken and Deborah to discuss a group membership for zoom classes only. They want 10 memberships but could only afford one right now. They will pay quarterly for the additional 9 memberships.
- g. Speaking and tabling events - Deborah, Debbie, and Ken are doing tabling events. Sept 25 is Student Academic Success Day. The goal is to address student retention. Grandparents and parents may attend so we will have a table. Debbie will be tabling a health fair in Elk Grove.
- h. Meeting with Sac Public Library - Deborah and Kathryn met with Sacramento Public Library.

Norv said that the new director is debating about what kind of programming will be appropriate for the library. Librarians on the local level are willing to schedule RS classes but the head librarian is hesitating. Cathy Minicucci is willing to teach a class at the library.

- i. T-shirts - Various ideas were voiced about t-shirts to identify the Renaissance Board. No action was taken.

6. Written Committee Reports

Statements of No Report: Long Range Planning; Nominating

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Technology – Sarah - On August 16, 24 people attended the Tech Update in person and 4 more on zoom. On August 25, 10 people attended the Hybrid training class. On the member interest survey, 48 people showed interest in the technology committee. During the semester startup, some people were having trouble with passwords. Sarah wants to move forward with the collaboration software project focusing on Teams and Google Drive. Some people were having problems with links not working. This may be caused by older systems or using Yahoo.
- b. Volunteer Services – Carol - Carol thanked those working with volunteers at the Open House. Gerontology has the needed 80 volunteers for fall. She will be reviewing names from the survey list for volunteer placements. Improvement needs to be made in distributing, collecting and counting monies for the ASI Food Pantry. Carol, Kathryn, Deborah and Amber will brainstorm this issue.
- c. Communications and Marketing --Rick - The Weekly Update has become the main communication vehicle for Renaissance instead of The Recorder. Rick will lead consideration of future communications.
- d. Finance and Administration – Norv - Receipts were submitted for flowers for a major donor.
- e. Forum – Michele - Scheduled arrival of speakers AG Rob Bonta and Mayor Darrell Steinberg have been modified to accommodate their schedules. Sac State’s Professor Kim Nalder will interview Mayor Steinberg. It has been difficult to find tech hosts for the Forum. She needs two more volunteers to write thank you notes. She will refer to Janet’s volunteer interest list.
- f. Long Range Planning - Ken N/A -
- g. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie- Debbie presented a new monthly report with charts showing membership numbers. Marian Kile has been helping with this detailed monthly report. The majority of our members are aged 70-79. We are steady with membership numbers from last year. Open House had the biggest attendance since Covid. There were 165 signed up through Eventbrite with 70% being new RS members. We also had an excellent level of participation from program leaders, community partners and volunteers. Debbie complimented those who worked on the very successful Open House and Orientation. Our next social event is Sept 17, 2023, at 12:30 at Arden Park to celebrate Mexican Heritage. There will be Mexican entrees and dessert provided. Members can bring appetizers or salads. Allan Keown has been hard at work preparing for the event.
- h. Nominating - Susan - N/A
- i. Program – Kathryn - Tracie Stafford recently led an instructor workshop for 20 presenters on racial bias in the classroom. Kathryn will take a survey of class topics that would appeal to diverse groups.
- j. Resource Development – Mike - An inaugural all-donor recognition event was held on August 20 at Nepenthe Clubhouse in Campus Commons. 400 invitations were sent out and 36 donors came. Michelle Silva, one of the scholarship recipients, attended. The Give Something Extra

fund reached \$15,375. Mark Drobny will give a financial webinar available for interested RS members.

- k. Scholarship – Laurye -The scholarship applications will be released on Oct 2, 2023. Laurye is still working with Sac State to get the updates on the specifications. They are pushing back on the financial need change. Laurye will be working with them to finalize any modifications. Next committee meeting is Oct 16, 2023, at 10:00 am.

8. Working Groups

- a. Orientation and Open House see above
- b. Diversity & Inclusion/Belonging see above
- c. Social Event on September 17 see above

9. New or Urgent Business

10. Key Dates

August 28 – Sac State instruction begins

September 5 – Renaissance classes begin

September 8 – Help Desk, Lobby Suites

September 8 – ASI Food Pantry; Pizza Party

September 9 – Elk Grove Multicultural event

September 15 – Help Desk, Serna Plaza

September 16 – Ohana Walk with ACC

September 17 – Social event, Arden Park noon-4 pm

September 22 – Deadline for Application to Teach for Spring

October 15 – Target deadline for Annual Report

11. **Adjourn** Deborah called the meeting to a close at 12:26 pm. Ken made the motion to adjourn; Michele seconded it.

12. Next Meeting: October 2, 2023, Zoom