

The University of Texas at Austin
RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting
Robuck Board Room, Etter Alumni Center
February 26, 2024
10:00 A. M. - 12 Noon

Attending

Kathy Armenta,* Richard Armenta,* Donna Bellinghausen,** Alan Friedman, Barbara Frock, George Frock, Joyce Harris, Hillary Hart,* Lael Hasty,** Mary Knight, Robin Jarman,* Sharon Justice, Phil Kelton, Susan Kessler, Karrol Kitt, Mary Knight, Bob Lawrence, Keith Momii, Sybil Momii, Peggy Mueller, Charles, Roeckle, Federico Subervi,* Madeline Sutherland-Meier, Holly Thompson, and Carol Barrett, Texas Exes Staff

* Board nominee

**Via Teams

1. Charles Roeckle, President, called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes of the September 12, 2023 Board Meeting were amended as follows: #10 add “\$100 memorial for Michael Arn, and #13 change “ Arts & Leisure” to “Arts & Culture.” The minutes were approved as corrected.
3. Treasurer’s Report, Mary Knight, Treasurer
A detailed report of the RFSA’s 2023-24 budget was provided and approved by the Executive Committee. Following is a summary of the report.

• Estimated Income	\$22,500.00
• Estimated Expenditures	\$23,125.00
• Balance as of November 2023	\$33,205.81
• Scholarship Match	\$24,293.00
• 25 scholarships @\$2,500 each	\$62,500.00
4. Actions of the Executive Committee, Charles Roeckle, President
 - The job description for the position of RFSA Secretary will be updated.
 - The Executive Committee approved the slate of nominees.
 - The renewal process for RFSA membership will be reviewed. An *ad hoc* committee was appointed, composed of the following persons: Bob

Lawrence, Mary Knight, Holly Thompson, Liz Hastings, Martha Hilley, and Carol Barrett.

- Third-Year At-Large Member, Alan Friedman reported on the RFSA meeting with Roger Cude, V. P. for People and Talent; Tasha Beretvas, Sr. Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; and Carmen Kimbrough, Principal Advisor for Faculty Affairs in the Office of the Provost. Charles Roeckle, Carol Barrett, Hillary Hart, Martha Hilley Mary Knight, Bob Lawrence, and Alan Friedman were the RFSA representatives in attendance.

The following issues of concern were discussed: including preretirement processes, including refinement of the online checklist and the possibility of an assigned staff member for every retiree; clarification regarding continued privileges for retirees, such as use of library, email, university-issued I.D. cards, parking, and the computer store. Other possible benefits included, for example, automobile rental discounts and travel insurance programs.

Issues pertaining to retired faculty included: modified service and emeritus status, “bridge appointments,” continuing access to research and travel support, continuing use of UT-owned computers and access to tech support.

The University was asked to inform retiring faculty and staff about the RFSA and also to use the RFSA as a resource.

- Bob Lawrence proposed moving the Project Manager position to the Executive Board. He will draft a written proposal to that effect.
- In light of Senate Bill 17, Texas Exes will host cultural graduation celebrations. Carol Barrett will find out how the RFSA can assist.

5. Information Technology, Holly Thompson

- The RFSA website has been completely reorganized and revamped, making it easier for RFSA members to access information and photos.
- The Board expressed heartfelt appreciation for the overall appearance and accessibility of the website.

6. Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE),
Bob Lawrence

- The series of pre-retirement webinars is ending.
- The Universities of Washington, Michigan, and California at Berkley responded to Bob's inquiry about retirement association membership categories.
- The AROHE newsletter is soliciting relevant articles.

7. Magazine, Donna Bellinghausen, Editor & Sharon Justice, Asst. Editor

- The Spring-Summer 2024 issue will have 32 pages.
- Dorothy Guerrero, Texas Exes has authorized that Capital Printing will do the design and mailing.
- May 1st is the final deadline for submissions for the next issue.
- Appreciation was expressed for support, cooperation, and assistance in accumulating content by the deadline.
- Ideas for topics are solicited for future issues.

8. Membership, Co-Chairs, Liz Hastings & Martha Hilley

- In cooperation with the university's Staff Council and Faculty Council, the Co-Chairs are promoting the AROHE three-part on-line webinars for employees pending retirement.

9. Photography, Miles Abernathy

- Miles attended every RFSA event that he could, took photographs, and sent them to be published on the RFSA website and in the RFSA magazine.

10. Scholarship, Lael Hasty, Chair

- Since October 17, 2023, \$2,035 has been received from 10 donors, including three RFSA Board members.
- A request to move \$5,000 to the endowment was made on January 15, 2024.
- Twenty-five student scholarships @ \$2500 each were awarded during 2023-24, totaling \$62,500.
- Beginning April 2024, 25 student scholarships @ \$3,000 each will be awarded, totaling \$75,000.
- RFSA contributed \$750 in memory of Geraldine Probst Martinez, Mike Arn, Jim Vick, and Hunter March.

- Devin Wallets, a scholarship recipient, made brief remarks at the Fall Luncheon.
- Scholarship Program Issues (Lael Hasty, author)

Last fall, we received names and contact information for 13 of the 25 recipients. Out of those 6 students provided information and their headshots. We did list them in the RFSA magazine even if they provided no information. We are still missing 12 names and contact information not provided by the Office of Student Financial Aid.

October 6 Carol Barrett and I met in person with Bobby Gonzales of UT Development regarding the difficulties and timeliness of getting names and contact information on the student scholarship recipients, as well as Development not providing us the information. We further reached out to Lauren Brown, Director of the Office of Student Financial Aid, to set a meeting in December. The meeting never happened. After the first of the year she reported back that UT Legal Services made a ruling that we cannot under any circumstances require students to provide us any information for our Power Point presentation, RFSA magazine or require any attendance of students at any of our events. Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA)

**I have rewritten the Scholarship Chairman's position description to remove requirements of obtaining student information and requirements of having students attend the luncheon or other functions of RFSA since the position description is no longer accurate. I will provide it to Carol Barrett. The Scholarship Chair will continue to keep financial spread sheets of donor contributions and write thank you notes to donors who contribute. The Scholarship Chair will continue to provide donor names for the magazine and will provide student information if it can be obtained from OFSA and the students. The Scholarship Chair will also report to the RFSA Board all donations amounts received and will request through the RFSA President, Carol Barrett, of the Texas Exes, and the RFSA Treasurer, when to transfer the \$5,000 match to the endowment.*

11. Special Programs Coordinator, Peggy Mueller

- The UT Outpost food pantry is a resource for the 37.7% of UT students who experience food insecurity. Attendees at the Spring Luncheon and Business meeting are reminded to bring nonperishable food donations.
- The UT Outpost accepts donations of professional clothing, shoes, and accessories for students participating in job fairs, interviews, and internships. Clothing donations can be dropped off by appointment <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/utoutpost.php>
- Following the Spring Luncheon, volunteers are needed in the Legends Room to make bookmark ribbon tassels and orange ribbon lapel loops for memory cards for the UT Remembers ceremony. RSVP with name, email address and phone number to pmueller5@utexas.edu or 512-565-6424.
- 40 Hours for the Forty Acres will be April 10-11, 2024. Support UT and RFSA. Online donations made to the RFSA Scholarship Fund will be matched.

The UT Remembers Ceremony will be held on Friday, April 26, 2024. Check times and schedules at

<https://utremembers.utexas.edu>

12. Sponsorships, Jim Crook & Cecil Martinez

- The Co-chairs continue to seek and secure sponsors to support the RFSA.

13. Interest Groups

- Arts and Culture, Co-Chairs Hillary Hart & Madeline Sutherland-Meier
 - The Arts and Culture Interest Group scheduled two events for the first part of the spring semester. On February 26, a small group toured “Public Works: Art by Elizabeth Olds,” an exhibit at the Ransom Center.
 - On March 6, the group will tour a major exhibit at the Blanton Museum, “The Floating World: Masterpieces of Edo Japan,” which features artwork—woodblock prints and painted scrolls from the Worcester Art Museum.

- Bridge, Mary Kay Hemenway
 - The bridge group met monthly from September 2022 through February 2023 with 7-12 people playing each time. A total of 17 different people participated during these six events.
 - We are thankful for all the work Carol Barrett does to set up the room for our games and arranging parking.
- Exercise, Carolyn Wylie
 - The exercise group is still meeting on Monday mornings.
 - It is a small group, but the group really appreciates the RFSA's continuing sponsorship.
- Foodies, Bob Lawrence
 - The Foodie Group has 110 people on the mailing list. It is getting a little tricky trying to find restaurants that can handle groups, averaging about 23 people per lunch.
- Speaker Series, Phil Keaton, Alice Reinartz, & Karrol Kitt
 - The speaker series has had the following recent meetings:
 - In October the speaker was Mr. Adam Wright, Chief of Staff of UTIMCO, the University of Texas Investment Management Company.
 - In November the speaker was Dr. Barbara Bergen, retired orthopedic surgeon.
 - In February the speaker was Dr. Phillip Kelton spoke about the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. There were 60 attendees.
 - Ms. Phyllis Zumwalt, Professional Genealogist, is scheduled for April 10th to speak about the basics of DNA testing for genealogy.
- Travel, Co-Chairs Sybil & Keith Momii
 - The following trips are planned.
 - Portugal
 - British Isles Cruise
 - Utah National Parks
 - Sybil & Keith are stepping down as co-chairs after four years of service. They will continue membership on the Travel Committee.
 - Kathy and Richard Armenta will become the new co-chairs of the Travel Group.

14. Other Business

Susan Kessler reminded the Board of the March 1st deadline for the bi-monthly newsletter.

15. Upcoming RFSA Events

- Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting, Wednesday, March 20th, 12:00-2:00 P. M., Connally Ballroom, Etter-Harbin Alumni Center (Speaker: Chris Plonsky, UT Athletics)
- Preparation for UT Remember, Legends Room, Alumni Center, Wednesday, March 20th, 2:00 P. M.
- 40 Hours for Forty Acres, April 10-11th
- UT Remembers, Friday, April 26th (Times to be determined)

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Harris, RFSA Secretary