

The University of Texas at Austin
RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting Minutes
Robuck Board Room, Etter Alumni Center and via TEAMS
September 12, 2023
10:00 A. M. – 12 Noon

Attending

Miles Abernathy, Donna Bellinghausen*, Alan Friedman, Joyce Harris, Liz Hastings, Lael Hasty Mary Kay Hemenway, Sharon Justice, Susan Kessler, Bob Lawrence, Cecil Martinez, Sybil Momii, Tany Norwood, Peggy Mueller, Alba Ortiz, Charles Roeckle, Holly Thompson, Carolyn Wylie

*via TEAMS

1. President, Charles Roeckle, called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M. Board members introduced themselves by name and Board position.
2. Minutes of the February 15, 2023 Board Meeting and the April 26, 2023 Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting were approved.
3. Mary Knight, Treasurer, submitted the 2023-24 Budget at the Executive Committee meeting on July 26, 2023. The Executive Committee approved the budget. A copy of the budget report was distributed to each Board Member.
4. President Roeckle reported the following actions taken by the Executive Committee:
 - An increase in the scholarship award from \$2500 to \$3000 was approved, effective for the 2023-24 academic year.
 - A prototype of the Membership Directory was delivered.
 - The Board Position of Project Manager was approved. Tany Norwood will serve as Project Manager.
 - Peggy Mueller will serve as the Special Projects Coordinator. A Co-Special Projects Coordinator will be named.
 - John De La Garza will lead an initiative to engage the RFSA in a Memorial Day ceremony, perhaps with the UT ROTC.
 - Susan Kessler will take the lead in establishing a Past Presidents group.
 - The President-Elect and Member-at-Large will constitute RFSA representation to Association of Retirement Organization in Higher Education (AROHE).
 - The status of a Life Membership category will continue under discussion, as to whether “universal membership,” tax deductions, and donations are feasible.

5. Information Technology, Holly Thompson
 - Holly reported that the website is up-to-date. The Board thanks Holly for the attractiveness and timeliness of website entries.
6. Association of Retirement Organizations in higher Education (AROHE)
 - Bob Lawrence reported that an October Zoom meeting is planned as an outreach to new retirees. The announcement will be placed on our website.
7. RFSA Magazine, Donna Bellinghausen and Sharon Justice
 - December 1st is the final deadline for the Fall/Winter edition content. The Board Members will each receive an email about what is expected for deadline. Some Board Members may have an earlier deadline as needed.
 - Travel will be a big feature in the next issue with two group travel stories and possibly members' stories of summer travel.
 - The Ex-Students will out-source the magazine design for the upcoming issue to Capital Printing. They chose this option for the previous issue, as well. They will pay the design charge of \$1,200.
8. Membership Report, Liz Hastings
 - The Happy Hour at the UT Club was a success, and a similar event likely will be planned in the future.
 - Plans to address issues of concern to those planning for retirement will become an outreach effort. Campus experts can be resourced to provide relevant information.
9. Photography Report, Miles Abernathy
 - Miles continues to attend and document RFSA activities. He sends photos to Holly Thompson and Donna Bellinghausen.
10. Scholarship Report
 - Lael Hasty reported that \$4,205 in donations has been received since February 15. The donations are from 24 people of which five donors are RFSA Board Members.
 - RFSA donated money to the scholarship program in memory of Geraldine (Gerri) Probst Martinez, Cecil Martinez's wife. Acknowledgement has been set to Cecil.
 - 25 RFSA scholarships have been awarded this year. Each scholarship is \$2,500, totaling \$62,500. Lael received email information for 11 of the 25 students. Currently, three students have responded. Responses are anticipated from the others.

- Students will be invited to the October 17th luncheon and will be seated at a table with Lael.
- Carol is working with Amber Keith, Assistant Director for Donor Stewardship, to obtain email addresses of all the recipients so can create a document for the power point presentation for the luncheon and the magazine. Students are not responsive to requests for information. Amber Keith recommends a meeting with Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid to discuss what we need moving forward.

11. Special Programs Coordinator Report, Peggy Mueller

- Orange Santa: Donations to help make the holidays brighter for children of UT students, faculty, and staff. Online donation and in-person cash donations are accepted at the RFSA Holiday Party.
- 40 Hours for 40 Acres: online giving campaign for UT RFSA participates by asking for donations to the RFSA Scholarship Fund (April)
- UT Remembers Program: memorial program that honors and remembers students, faculty, staff, and retirees who have died in the previous year. RFSA members make bookmark tassels and orange memorial loops as mementos for program guests, usually after the Spring luncheon.
- UT Outpost: free food pantry on campus for students experiencing food insecurity. RFSA members bring non-perishable food to the Spring luncheon.

12. Sponsorship Report, Cecil Martinez and Jim Crook

- Currently, there are nine sponsors @ \$1,000 each.
- Cecil is looking to add a 10th sponsor with expertise in elder law.

13. Interest Groups

- a. Arts and Leisure, Laraine Lasdon
Laraine is stepping down from her position. The position needs to be filled.
- b. Bridge, Mary Kay Hemenway
The group met monthly during March 2022 through September 2023, with one to four tables of four persons each time. A total of 15 people participated during this period.
- c. Exercise, Carolyn Wylie
A small group continues to meet on Mondays, 8:30-9:30 at Gregory Gym. The group has five regular participants. An instructor is provided by the Recreational Sports Center.

- d. Foodies, Bob Lawrence
Foodies is still going strong. We have had some of the largest attendance ever these past few months, from 20 to 28 people at each event.
June 2023: Hyde Park Bar & Grille
July 2023: Jack Allen's Kitchen
August 2023: El Raval
- e. Travel Group, Sybil and Keith Momii
The following trips are planned for 2024: Portugal, British Isles, and the Utah National Parks.
Sybil and Keith will be stepping down from leadership. The position needs to be filled.

14. Faculty Issues

Alan Friedman was welcomed to Board membership. He outlined the concern of a UT retired professor whose request for travel funds to attend and present the keynote address at his profession's convention was denied. Alan Friedman will draft a document detailing the issue. President Roeckle will decide how to proceed in making relevant inquiries.

15. Upcoming RFSA Events

- a. Fall luncheon and business meeting, Tuesday, October 17, 12:00-2:00 P.M. Connally Ballroom, Etter-Harbin Alumni Center. Speaker: Bob Bursey, Executive and Artistic Director, Texas Performing Arts-
- b. Holiday Party, December 1, 2:30-4:30 P. M., Thompson Conference Center.

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 A. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Harris, RFSA Secretary