

RFSA Board Meeting

September 10, 2024

Approved on 2/18/2025

Attendees: Bob Lawrence, Holly Thompson, Carol Barrett, Sharon Justice, Miles Abernathy, Peggy Mueller, Robin Jarman, Lael Hasty, Phil Kelton, Barbara Frock, George Frock, Martha Hilley, Hillary Hart, Tany Norwood, Mary Knight, Richard and Kathy Armenta, Alice Reinarz. TEAMS Remote Attendees: Liz Hastings, Alan Friedman, Madeline Sutherland-Meier, Donna Bellinghausen, Charles Roeckle. Mary Kay Hemenway (not in attendance, but report submitted)

The meeting was called to order by Bob Lawrence at 10:00 a.m.

Previous board meeting minutes were (perhaps inappropriately) approved at the Executive Board Meeting. These are now all posted on the website. Please review and send corrections (if any) to Holly Thompson.

AROHE webinars coming up (also on RFSA website):

- **September 11** - AROHE Trip Preview Webinar: **Travel Institute trips for retired faculty and staff in partnership with Road Scholar.**
- **September 18** – AROHE Virtual Summit focusing on the importance of **Social relationships for a happy and successful retirement**
- **October 24** – AROHE **Cyber Fraud and Personal Security Insights** focusing on cyber threats and how you can protect yourself, presented by **Fidelity Investments**.

BOARD MEMBER Reports:

Historian Report (Barbara & George Frock)

Edith Royal added (spouse of Darrel Royal).

Magazine Report (Donna Bellinghausen & Sharon Justice)

We are working on the Fall/Spring 2024 issue. Our deadline is December 1 with an estimated delivery of late January or early February.

Membership (Liz Hastings & Martha Hilley)

RFSA was represented at the UT Benefits Fair on July 15 at the Pickle Campus and at Gregory Gym on July 23, 2024. Thank you to Carol for coordinating our presence at both events and providing all the materials needed: applications for membership, brochures, the RFSA Magazines and peppermints.

Attending these events gave an RFSA presence we have not had in several years. Faculty and Staff stopped at our table, and we had the opportunity to highlight our interest groups and student scholarships. We had 50 folks stop at Pickle and over 150 people in Gregory Gym chat with us and take our magazine and the brochures. RFSA was present at the fairs from 10:00 am until 2:00pm both days. A big thank you to the RFSA members including the board members who staffed the tables.

Treasurer Report (Mary Knight)

2023-24 BUDGET and ACTUALS through May 31, 2024
Monday, August 12, 2024

RFSA OPERATING ACCOUNT (GL 12639)	2023-24 BUDGET	ACTUALS SEPTEMBER 1 to MAY 31, 2024
ESTIMATED INCOME		
Dues	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 5,041.00
Business Sponsorships (Weed Corely Fish, GM)	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
McKetta Foundation (received 12/19/23)	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00
Travel Income	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 2,800.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 16,441.00
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES		
McKetta Awards (Oct luncheon)	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00
Capitol Music Center		
Magazine and Directory	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 3,671.41
Donation - UT Outpost	\$ 2,500.00	
Holiday Social	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 5,283.91
"Texas Connect" Ad	\$ 2,025.00	
Operating Costs (mileage, office supplies, postage)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 650.71
Donation in Memory (Marchman, Am, Vick)		\$ 600.00
Transfer to Carol Barrett Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,000.00	
Transfer to Scholarship Matching	\$ -	
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 23,125.00	\$ 11,306.03
Balance as of May 31, 2024		
Ending 8/31/23 Balance		\$ 29,965.04
2023-24 Income through May 2024		\$ 16,441.00
2023-24 Expenditures through May 2024		\$ (11,306.03)
Balance as of May 31, 2024		\$ 35,100.01

SUBACCOUNTS

RFSA Match for Scholarship Donations (GL 12631)		
Available Funds 9/1/23		\$ 24,293.00
Transfer In		
Paid to UT for Scholarship Match		\$ (5,000.00)
Balance as of May 31, 2024		\$ 19,293.00

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 54,393.01**

RFSA Reserve Fund (Part of main GL 12639)		
Balance in Reserve Fund 9/1/23	\$ 1,000.00	
Used for Scholarships	\$ -	
Other Unusual or Unbudgeted Uses	\$ -	
Balance as of May 31, 2024	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	

Budgeted for 2023-24 (see above) **\$ 1,000.00** * *Recommend Transfer*

[Note: RFSA Executive Committee approved this fund in 2019. The \$1K is a recurring expense/Reserve for unusual or unbudgeted expenses. Tan's notes for 1/14/21 state that for any years when the end-of-year operating budget balance is over \$25,000, that difference will also be transferred to the Scholarship Reserve Fund so that the next year's starting fund balance will be \$25,000. (WFL recommends we wait until after 9/1/23 to see Operating Account balance for '23-24.)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND SUMMARY

Market Value as of May 31, 2024	\$ 1,652,302.44	
Book Value as of May 31, 2024	\$ 1,056,237.99	
25 Students Awarded scholarships for 2023-24 @ \$2,500 each	\$ 62,500.00	* <i>Anticipated distribution</i>
Actual distribution as of May 31, 2024	\$ 73,848.31	<i>Actual</i>

Scholarship (Lael Hasty) with an update from our last meeting with Development

August 2, 2024 Carol, Bob Lawrence, Martha Hilley and Lael Hasty met on zoom with Lauren Brown of OFSA and Development Office - Brian Willey, Executive Director of Endowment Services regarding the difficulties we have had the last couple of years obtaining information from students in a timely manner.

What we learned:

- 1) The U.S. Department of Education is the overriding force causing these constraints and mandates that students receiving scholarships do NOT have to provide us with any of their information.
- 2) UT Legal department told us that requiring students to provide us with information is illegal and we must comply with the law.
- 3) Each student must sign a waiver release form to give us information.
- 4) OFSA has simplified the waiver form to make it easier for students to complete.
- 5) Each student has to acknowledge they are not related to anyone at the Board of Regents in order to receive the RFSA scholarship money.
- 6) 2024-2025 24 scholarships will be provided and as OFSA gets the information they will pass on to RFSA.
- 7) Carol Barrett and Lael Hasty are to work with Julie Ballard in the stewardship area of the UT Development Office.

Student awardees had until Monday, August 12 to respond and sign papers allowing us to have their information that I request for the magazine and Power Point presentations at our Fall and Spring luncheons. OFSA has installed a new computer system to track this information and they believe it will be up and running by next year. September 5 we finally received the names and emails of 23 of the 24 students. Lael contacted them and to date have heard nothing from them.

It is Lael's recommendation that we change the name of our Scholarship program to 'Awards Fund' or 'Awards Program' rather than "Scholarship Program" since these monies we give are given out based on financial need, first generation students and not entirely on academics. Our Executive Committee will need to discuss and the Board will need to approve this change. Suggested name (to be considered by Executive Committee) from Peggy Mueller: "Awards and Scholarships".

\$3,725 in donations has been received since our March 20, 2024 meeting. 22 donations received - 4 Board members and the remaining 17 donations are from others.

Last Fall we received names and contact information for 14 of the 25 recipients. Out of those 6 students provided information and their head shots. We did list the names and hometowns of 9 without photos in the RFSA magazine even if they provided no information. We were still missing 11 names and contact information not provided by the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Special Projects (Peggy Mueller)

Most of RFSA's special projects happen later in the year.

Orange Santa donations will be collected online during November/December with the distribution of gift cards for participating UT children in early December. RFSA encourages donations both online and at our Holiday Party on December 11, 2024.

<https://orangesanta.utexas.edu>

UT Outpost collection of non-perishable food at our Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting benefits UT students with food insecurity by making food available in their pantry. BE sure to read the article about this campus organization in the Fall Issue of Texas Connect on the cover and on pages 38-39. Texas Connect issues are available on the RFSA website.

Clothing contributions: Alice Reinarz has contributed professional clothing (which we do not collect on-campus). Clothing pickup has to be arranged in advance.

Martha Hilley suggested that Hospice Austin would love to talk with RFSA group.

OLLI Lifetime Learning classes - Wide range of subjects. End of Life Decisions – estate planning, decisions, etc. in 6-week class. Link to OLLI information is on the RFSA website.

Sponsorship (Cecil & Jim)

Jim Crook will be leaving his position, so we are looking for a new sponsorship co-chair.

Website and Email blasts (Holly Thompson):

RFSA website is kept up-to-date with all information received by Holly! Important dates are also shared on Facebook.

August 26 email blast was successfully created. Possible issue: It landed in some SPAM folders (for folks who had received it without problem in the past). Holly will post another blast in early October (will request input from board members mid-September).

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP Reports:

Foodies (Bob Lawrence)

The Foodies continue to be going strong. There are, on average, about 20 people that attend each lunch. We are continuing our around the world tour with Azul Tequila this month. We have been to China, Japan, India, Cuba, Peru, Mexico (El Alma), Italy and France with three more to go after this month.

Suggestions: Grove

Bridge (Mary Kay Hemenway)

The Bridge group did not meet over the summer due to construction restraints on the Alumni Center. Our first meeting for the Fall was scheduled for September 9 and we plan to meet monthly in the coming year. The next RFSA Bridge Group will meet at the Alumni Center on Monday October 7 from 1-4 pm. We play party bridge, not duplicate, and you do not need to provide your own partner. Invitations to those already on the mailing list will be sent by September 30. If you want to join the group or have your name added to the mailing list, you may reserve a spot by contacting Mary Kay Hemenway (mkhemenway@utexas.edu).

Exercise (Carolyn Wylie)

There are still very few of us, but our instructor seems determined to keep the class alive, and I'm willing to keep chairing it. Potential new members do pop up from time to time but are generally scared off by the on-campus location and/or the Monday morning class time.

Speaker Series (Alice Reinarz & Phil Kelton)

Next speaker: September 25, 1:30 PM: "Basics of DNA Testing for Genealogy", Phyllis Zumwalt, Professional Genealogist. Howson Library Branch. Ms. Zumwalt obtained an online master's degree from the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, Scotland) in genealogy and heraldic studies during the pandemic. She teaches genealogy classes for the Austin Lifetime Learning Institute and does genealogy research for clients.

Possible future speakers may include Estate Planning, History of new medical technologies, Coping with chronic diseases. Alice Ramirez welcomes suggestions for topics and speakers.

Arts & Culture (Hillary Hart & Madeline Sutherland-Meier)

Bullock Museum – suggested to consider (Barbara Frock) – Holly has now added this to the Arts & Culture section (Interest Groups).

This past year the Art and Culture Interest Group toured two exhibits on campus: "Public Works by Elizabeth Olds" at the Ransom Center and "The Floating World: Masterpieces of Edo Japan from the Worcester Art Museum" at the Blanton Museum. During the early summer, members also attended Tuesday Twilights at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, which featured live local music, food trucks and adult beverages.

In the coming year, we plan to continue to focus on affordable activities for members. We also recognize that parking on and around the campus is difficult and are looking for easier ways to access campus venues.

Travel Group (Kathy & Richard Armenta)

As of our last RFSA Board Meeting on May 21st, the Travel Committee has been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming 2025 travel season.

The April Portugal trip had 15 travelers. A check for \$1500 was sent to RFSA. The British Isles trip had 19 travelers with an additional \$1900 accrued for RFSA activities. One remaining 2024 trip is scheduled for Sept. 22, to Utah's National Parks. Four RFSA travelers are registered for that trip.

Our committee has had four meetings in the past three months:

- May 10th – in person with full attendance of all 11 members
- July 5th – by Zoom – 11 members attending
- July 17th – by Zoom – 10 members attending
- August 21st – in person with 9 members attending.

To facilitate the planning process, our committee has decided on a range of criteria for RFSA group travel, with an understanding that depending on the destination and type of trip, some criteria may shift as needed.

After extensive research and discussion within our group and in consultation with our travel advisor, Lori Threatt, we have decided on three trip/tour offerings for 2025:

- Mystical Peru tour– April 29-May 9, 2025
- Historic Trains of Old West -June 2-June 10, 2025
- Treasures of Tuscany, October 1-October 10, 2025

Lori Threatt has confirmed the above dates, signed contracts with the two tour vendors of Mayflower and Globus. She has designed the website information and registration process for each trip and scheduled Preview zoom meetings for each trip.

www.relaxedescapes.com/groups

Our committee marketing plan for the 2025 trips includes:

- RFSA monthly email blast
- Information for the RFSA website and Facebook
- Personal emails to over 150 travelers from RFSA past trips
- Reminders emails about the Preview zoom meetings
- Each committee member spreading the word to their networks about the trips
- Information at our Travel Table at upcoming RFSA Luncheon
- A brief ppt and announcement at the Luncheon
- Encouraging RFSA Board members to help circulate information about the trips - given the importance of the Fund-Raiser revenue that is generated with the trips.

Our Committee is considering designing a brief survey for the RFSA membership, to gain more information about travel interests that would help with our planning for 2026 trips.

Committee Updates:

Retirement FAQ (Robin Jarman)

Work with HR, Provost, RFSA on communication for retirees. Online resources on website. Transition into retirement. Different type of employment (how to facilitate). Audience is retirees and those seeking to retire soon. Committee Members: Robin Jarman, Alan Friedman, Mary Lopez, Andrea Zabcik, David Rhea, Ruth Rubio, Bob Lawrence.

Member Benefits (Liz Hastings)

Committee consists of 6 members including Martha Hilley and Liz Hasty. Committee members: JoAnn Huber, Government Department, College of Liberal Arts; Liliana Merubia, Dean's Office, LBJ School of Public Affairs; David Rhea, Financial and Administrative Services; Annela M. Lopez, Office of the V. P for Financial Affairs.

Our first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 11:00a in the Alumni's Center Meyers Library. Our committee task is to explore any benefits/perks for retirees who choose the "Legacy" membership level. If necessary, we will schedule a second meeting.

Board Job Descriptions (Tany Norwood)

Tany will make revisions, then Tany and Bob will meet with position-holders for brainstorming and feedback.

Table Topic Follow-up (Tany Norwood)

Recommendations page – Tany was able to verify that many of the items have been completed. The updated document is now on the RFSA website (under Photos and also under RFSA – Meeting Minutes Archives).

Letter to System (Mary, Martha, John)

Letter drafted – case study included. Historical issues. Not ready to share yet. Have not heard back from John on this yet. Mary will send to Executive Committee.

Other Business

October Luncheon Update

- Roger Cude responded to Bob Lawrence's note regarding topics for speaking at the luncheon. Roger will consult with the UT System Office of Employee Benefits (OEB) regarding questions on Medicare, Medicare Advantage and UTCare. Decisions and contracts are managed by OEB and Roger's office handles the administration for UT Austin retirees.

- RFSA Board Recommendation Cards – Changes included changing “Nomination” to “Recommendation” and adding the Sponsorship Co-Chair to the list of available positions.

(See sample on the right) →

RFSA Board Recommendation Form

Get involved in RFSA! Recommend yourself or another RFSA member to join the RFSA Board. The following officer and Interest Group chair positions are available in 2025:

President-Elect
 Perform the duties of the President in the event the President is unable to function. Three-year commitment (one year as President-Elect, one year as President, and one year as Past President.)
 [Prerequisite: Must have served in an RFSA leadership position and/or on the RFSA Board.]
 Recommended Name(s) for Consideration: _____

Member At-Large
 Assist the President or other officers with projects for the RFSA membership. Serve as one of four Members At-Large on the RFSA Board. Three-year term.
 Recommended Name(s) for Consideration: _____

Sponsorship Co-Chair
 Assist Cecil Martinez with RFSA sponsorships.
 Recommended Name(s) for Consideration: _____

- Guests at tables:
 VAN – looking for volunteers (see notes from Bob), Director of HR Service Center (Marlo Kibler), Interim Director of Benefits and Leave Management (Kelly Lomasney), Work Life Balance and Wellness Manager (Nosse Ovienmhada).
- Paperwork in rotunda, QR code (not on tables)
- Adding Sponsorship Co-Chair, changing Nominee to Recommendation on card for luncheon(s).

Lifetime Membership:

We needed to choose a name for programming purposes. After discussing several options, the board voted and chose **RFSA “Legacy” Membership**. Creation of this membership option has been assigned to the UT development team.

“In Memoriam” Discussion (Sharon Justice)

Policy (rather than case-by-case basis) on contributions for deceased members:

Option 1: To honor the passing of an individual current or former RFSA board member, \$100.00 will be taken from our general fund and placed in our scholarship fund. Appropriate family members will be notified. This would be hard to budget for.

Option 2: To honor the passing of an individual current board member, \$100 will be taken from the general fund and placed in the scholarship fund. For Former board members there will be no dollars donated, but a condolence card would be sent to the appropriate family members. I envision a Printed card with our logo and either a printed message inside or a blank card with space for the president to make a personal comment. Either way the president would sign the card.

Option 3: To honor the passing of all current and former board members, a set amount to be determined would be taken from the general fund and placed in the scholarship fund. This would be awarded annually. No individual contributions. This will be listed in the magazine’s “Scholarship Contributions” page, as we have done in the past.

Suggestions made: Include ALL RFSA members in memoriam, not just the board members.

Sharon will re-write the proposal after our meeting discussion and send out to the group before the next board meeting. Hillary Hart offers to assist in this if Sharon needs help. Barbara Frock keeps the list of deaths – she can send this to Sharon. The RFSA Magazine includes ALL UT deaths (not just RFSA).

RFSA NAME TAGS:

At the Benefits Fair, Robin commented about name tags (with “Texas Exes” in large print). There was some confusion thinking that our members represented Texas Exes (not RFSA). Suggestion made that we create new name tags that reflect RFSA. Carol will work on making new name tags. Tany Norwood offered to assist.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:37.