

**RFSA Luncheon and Business Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 15, 2025  
Meeting Minutes Approved September 16, 2025

## Opening Remarks

President Bob Lawrence welcomed RFSA members and guests and invited them to enjoy the buffet.

He mentioned that the nifty orange ribbon attached to his nametag denotes the new Legacy Membership and promised to provide more information on this later.

Bob gave thanks to the President's office and staff for hosting our luncheon as well as for supporting RFSA; also to members of student service organizations including the Blazers and Orange Jackets for assisting with our event; and to the staff of the Texas Exes for their support and assistance year-round, especially the IT and Administrative staff (Patricia, Carol and Ann).

Bob thanked everybody that supported and donated to the UT Outpost. UT Outpost is an on-campus resource for students experiencing uncertainty in acquiring food. We had three representatives with us from the Outpost: Valeria Martin, Christina Ciaburri and Althea Honan.

Bob acknowledged our sponsors, who are very important to the financial stability of RFSA and our Scholarship program. We are grateful to our sponsors for their continued support. Most of our sponsors attended our luncheon.

Our current sponsors include:

- Capital City Village: Gayle Hight
- Covert Chevrolet, Buick, GMC: Rox Covert
- FastPark and Relax: Mary Hoyt
- St. David's Healthcare: Molly Sherman and Lisa Trahan
- University Federal Credit Union: David Kies and Richey Rogers
- Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes: Laurens Fish
- Stan's Heating and A/C: Lacey McDaniel
- Westminster Senior Living Community: Jordan Bleeker and Tessa Cannon
- Karavel Shoes
- **NEW SPONSOR: Nancy Guilloteau – Realtor, Bramlett Partners Real Estate (McGuire Team).** [Nancy@McGuireATX.com](mailto:Nancy@McGuireATX.com), 512-271-4366



With a distinguished career as a professor and researcher at the University of Texas spanning over 26 years, Nancy brings unparalleled expertise, care and analytical insight to her work in real estate. Nancy came to Austin in 1986 to attend UT and fell in love with the city's vibrant energy and outdoor lifestyle. She stayed to earn her MA and PhD in French Linguistics and ultimately became the French Language Program Director at UT in 2006. Today she balances her full-time role at the university with her thriving career in real estate.

Today's photographers were Joyce McClendon and Holly Thompson. We appreciate Joyce for filling in during Miles' absence.

## Featured Speaker:

### Dr. Terry Sullivan, “Old School: From the Classroom to the Administration and back again”.

Theresa A. Sullivan is President Emerita and University Professor Emerita at the University of Virginia. In her scholarly career as a demographer, she developed analytic techniques for the use of U.S. Census Public Use Samples and was an investigator on a large international sample survey. With her collaborators Elizabeth Warren and Jay Westbrook, she led several original large-scale data collections of American consumer bankruptcy records. Their first analysis of the bankruptcy records, “As We Forgive Our Debtors”, received the Silver Gavel Award of the American Bar Association. Their second book, “The Fragile Middle Class”, received the Writing Award of the American College of Financial Services Lawyers. She recently chaired a National Academies panel to assess the quality of the 2020 Census. Dr. Sullivan has taught at the Universities of Chicago, Texas, Michigan and Virginia, and has received five major teaching awards. Prior to coming to Virginia, she was the Executive Vice President and Provost, Chief Academic Officer and Chief Budget Officer of the University of Michigan. Prior to that, she was Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University of Texas System. She was also Vice President and Graduate Dean at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Michigan State University and holds a PhD from the University of Chicago. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has been married for 53 years to emeritus law professor Douglas Laycock (who celebrated his birthday on April 15 at the RFSA luncheon), and she is the mother of two and a grandmother of one.

**“Old School: From the Classroom to the Administration and Back Again”, Dr. Terry Sullivan –**  
View this incredible speech in its entirety!

## Guest Speakers: Kathy & Richard Armenta, RFSA Travel Committee Chairs

- Kathy and Richard reminded guests about the 2025 upcoming trips, including “Mystical Peru” from April 29 to May 8; “Historical Trains of the West” from June 2 to June 10; and “Treasures of Tuscany” from October 1 to October 10. There are still \$100.00 per person savings to be enjoyed!
- Based on the Travel Survey, 2026 trips are already being planned! The first is a Danube Cruise, from March 29 to April 17, 2026. This was the most-requested trip on the survey. “Danube Dreams with 2 nights in Prague” is open for booking (still working on airfare piece).



## Business Meeting:

**Treasurer's Report** – Mary Knight. View online by scanning this QR code →

**Previous meeting minutes can be viewed on the RFSA website.**

<https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/meeting-minutes-archives/>



## Student Scholarships

Bob recognized Lael Hasty as the chair of our Scholarship Committee, and introduced the students in attendance who had received an RFSA scholarship:

- Arnav Jain
- Soriah Montemayor
- Rylei Ripley
- Jonathan Simon
- Folakemi Elekolusi

Folakemi Elekolusi spoke to the group and expressed appreciation for the scholarship, which she said was life-changing for her after struggling with financial support when coming to UT.



## Election of New Officer:

Our constitution requires the election of new members of the Executive Committee to take place at the spring luncheon and business meeting.

The nominating committee was chaired by Charles Roeckle, and also included Martha Hilley, Alice Reinarz, Hillary Hart, and Bob Lawrence.

This year, we have one nominee to be considered (Mary Knight for President-Elect).

Mary Knight retired in 2019 after a distinguished career in Financial and Administrative Services. She holds a BBA from the University of Texas and is a Certified Public Accountant. Mary began her professional journey in the Office of the Auditor and later advanced to the position of Director of the Budget Office. Throughout her career, she was a steadfast advocate for staff in financial roles across the campus, both in her leadership of the Budget Office and as a key member of the Chief Financial Officer's team. Currently Mary serves as the Treasurer for RFSA. She will remain in this role for another year.



Group vote resulted in unanimous approval of Mary Knight for President-Elect.

### **Recognition of Charles Roeckle:**

For the last three years, Charles has acted in the capacity of President Elect, President and Past President. Charles was presented with a small token of appreciation for his contributions.

### **Update from Arts & Culture Group:**

Hillary Hart invited anyone who might be interested to join the Arts and Culture Interest Group for two docent-led tours next week: one at the Blanton Museum at 2:00 on Tuesday April 22 (\$17 for seniors, \$5 for Blanton members), the other at the Ransom Center on Thursday (April 24) at 2:00. The Ransom Center tour is free. Afterwards those who are interested will head across the street to Cafe Medici.

### **Words from the outgoing President, Bob Lawrence:**

Bob gave a short overview of what has been done over the past year, including:

- Legacy (lifetime) Membership is active (a multi-year endeavor)! This membership is available through the Membership Page on our website. This is another option in addition to One Year and Three Year memberships (individual and joint memberships available). Legacy is \$400 for an individual and \$550 for a joint membership. Currently, we have 15 people with a Legacy Membership (who wore orange ribbons with their name tags)!
- At the last luncheon, a question was raised regarding System employees and issuing ID Cards. This is what we have found out: UT System retirees do not have privileges with UT Austin - in fact, the active System employees don't have privileges. Privileges might have been offered in the past, when UT System shared UT Austin's HR platform, but UT Austin no longer has access to the kind of information that would be needed to issue privileges or ID cards.
- We have updated the RFSA Resources on our website. Robin Jarman led the committee that reviewed retirement questions. After the committee met with UT HR and the Provost, Holly Thompson revised the Resources pages on the RFSA website and the HR retirement page was reviewed and revised.
- Table topics review: This committee, led by Tany Norwood, went over all the items that came out of our first Table Topics discussion a couple of years ago. The committee looked at what was completed, what was yet to be done and the feasibility of other items on the list. This report is up on our website in two areas: under Photos/Articles and within the Meeting Minutes Archives.

- Participation in RFSA is growing, that can only make us a stronger organization. Martha Hilley is going to become the new President, Mary Knight is President-Elect, Annela Lopez has agreed to chair our Membership Committee, Gayle Hight has accepted the Sponsorship Co-Chair position, Hillary Hart and Karen Kelton have volunteered to be on the Membership Committee. The new people in these positions will give us a new and broader perspective as we move forward. For consistency and continuity, Alan Freidman and John de la Garza have agreed to continue as Members-at-Large. Bob recognized the board members, committee chairs, committee members and all who have served in the past.
- The University is changing, which will present new opportunities for us: The University has a new interim President, Jim Davis; new interim Vice President for Human Resources, Tony Hunt; new interim Provost, David Vanden Bout; and there will be a new Executive Director of the Texas Exes starting May 1, Robert Jones. We will be working on maintaining and developing relationships with the University administration, which will keep us busy for a while.

### **New Member Introductions**

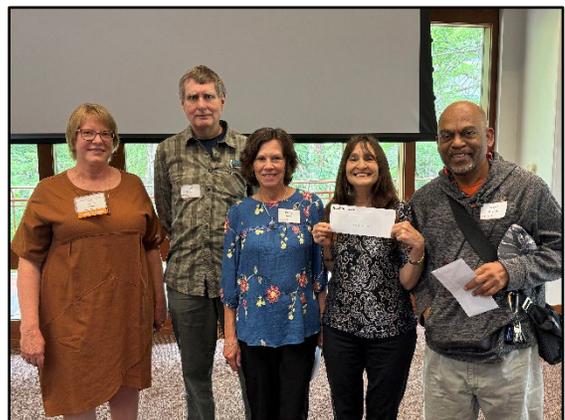
- Stacy Amorous – Liberal Arts
- Sophia Gilmsen – Butler School of Music, Piano Pedagogy
- Cynthia Roberts – Accounting
- Kim Wicheta – Accounting
- Jody Jensen – Kinesiology and Health Education
- Nancy Guilloteau – New sponsor (Bramlett Partners Real Estate), current French Language Program Director at UT (since 2006)
- Lisa Cypert – Accounting
- Judith Rhedin - Accounting (joining soon)

### **McKetta Awards:**

The late Dr. John McKetta was a strong supporter of the RFSA. The McKetta foundation continues to provide funds enabling us to give five attendance awards of \$100 each at our luncheons.

McKetta Award Winners were:

1. Robin Jarman
2. Ted Aanstoos (award donated back to RFSA Scholarship Committee)
3. Peggy Rhea
4. Vivian Goldman-Leffler (guest of Corky Hilliard)
5. James Brown



### **Changing of the Guard:**

Outgoing President Bob Lawrence acknowledged our Executive Committee and Board, as well as committee members and interest groups. He expressed his honor and pleasure at serving as President for the past year and thanked the group for their confidence and support. He passed the torch to the incoming president and introduced Martha Hilley.

Incoming President Martha Hilley comes to us from the Butler School of Music. Martha spoke about how she has been on the Faculty Women's Organization for 31 years, as a result of Terry Sullivan's invitation to join this steering committee many years ago. Martha has a goal of increasing visibility and membership, and asked the group to be involved, and to reach out to a friend (staff or faculty) to let them know about our wonderful organization.

Martha Hilley led the group (on piano) for "The Eyes of Texas".

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.