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## SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, March 5, 2018

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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# Minutes: SJSU ERFA Executive Board Monday, March 5, 2018

**Members Present**, Celia Bakke, Gene Bernardini, Peter Buzanski, Ji-Mei Chang, Jill Cody, Barbara Conry, Abdel El-Shaieb, Nancie Fimbel, Dolores Escobar Hamilton, Don Keeseey, Bill McCraw, Wayne Savage, Lonna Smith, Jackie Snell, Jo Bell Whitlatch, Dennis Wilcox, and Bob Wilson.

**1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by President Ji-Mei at 10:05:42 Pacific Standard Time (PST).

**2. The Minutes** of the February 5 board meeting were approved by voice vote.

### **3. President's Remarks**

A. Celia was thanked for volunteering to monitor the speaker list during deliberations.

B. Beth Van Till in the Provost office requested a breakfast meeting on March 23 with ERFA board members to discuss the problem of “losing institutional memory” with so many changes in academic administrators, but only four board members could attend. During board discussion, it was suggested that perhaps 9 a.m. on our meeting dates of April 2 and May 7 would be more suitable for more board members to attend.

Ji-Mei said she would relay this suggestion to the Provost's office. Beth also queried about the Provost office contacting ERFA members about attending such a meeting, which the board supported. Nancie noted that the Provost office already has the current membership directory that it could use to contact individual ERFA members if they so desired.

C. CSU-ERFA has distributed a list of service/program contributions that retired faculty and staff make at the state and local level. Ji-Mei added two items of service that SJSU-ERFA makes to the University: 1) the faculty awards program, and 2) participation in May graduation ceremonies. The purpose of the list is to document how retired faculty and staff continue to support the CSU and individual campuses.

D. The SJSU-ERFA office in MacQuarrie Hall is still being occupied by CASA due to delays in the construction of the Health building, but the Dean's office reports that “maybe” it will be vacated in about two weeks.

E. Professor Alan Soldofsky, one of this year's recipients for the SJSU-ERFA Faculty research & creativity awards, thanked Ji-Mei and reported that he would like ERFA members to know about the upcoming Legacy of Poetry Festival (4/2 to 4/23). Carol will be asked to post this event to ERFA members on the website.

### **4. Upcoming Events and Activities**

**A. Spring Excursion.** Jo Bell, a member of the program committee, reported that 23 have already signed up for the field trip to Moss Landing Marine Lab and Elkhorn Slough on April 5. Some Santa Cruz area members, who would not be taking the bus, have asked about a “discount.” After discussion about costs of the bus, etc., Lonna moved and Gene seconded to offer an \$15 discount to those members living in the Santa Cruz area. The motion passed with 3 opposed and 1 abstain.

Bill and Gene also reported on their exploratory field trip to check on boats at Elkhorn and restaurant options in Moss Landing. Their recommendation was a pre-set lunch at Phil’s Fish House at \$22.95 per person, or people could also bring their own lunch. This met with Board approval and, after more discussion about the logistics of having members sign up for the lunch, it was decided that Jo Bell would mastermind all this and request members to bring a check to the outing made out to SJSU-ERFA, since Abdel will pre-pay the lunch out of the treasury.

**B. Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting.** Ji-Mei distributed a tentative schedule via email for the luncheon on May 11 at the Villages. Dolores distributed possible menu items. Lonna moved and Jackie seconded that the menu choices would be 1) sole, 2) meatloaf, 3) Eggplant Parmigiana, and 4) Tiramisu. Motion approved by voice vote. Lonna then moved and Jo Bell seconded that the cost per person would be \$30. Motion approved by voice vote. Ji-Mei reported that she has invited the three faculty grant awardees.. Although Ruma Chopra cannot attend, Alan Soldofsky and Ninghun Wang will attend.

There was then a 12-minute discussion on whether the awardees should be given 2 or 5 minutes to tell the assembled guests about their research project. It was decided (more or less) that they could have up to 5 minutes, but this time limit should be strictly enforced by the president. It was further decided by consensus that the business meeting should start no later than 1 p.m. and end at 1:30 when the SJSU Choraliers would break out in song. Dolores will need the names of all Choraliers to alert the gate guards that they have security clearance to enter the Villages compound (community).

## 5. Action Items

**A. ERFA representation at multiple graduation ceremonies in May.** Ji-Mei reported that she checked with University Advancement about ERFA participation (a representative on the platform committee) and they were OK with this tradition, which has been done for many years at Spartan Stadium. Peter moved and Bob seconded that ERFA not participate in the ceremonies this year. There was discussion on the pros and cons of participating in this year’s seven college ceremonies. Several members pointed out that participating in graduation added to ERFA’s visibility and connection to the University. Dennis, for example, said participation was good from the standpoint of letting faculty attending ceremonies know about ERFA.

Peter’s motion was defeated with 10 opposed, two for, and two abstain. Ji-Mei then called for “volunteers” to attend various ceremonies: Carmen (humanities); Ji-Mei (education); Joan (CASA); Abdel (Business); Wayne (science); Bill (social science). Engineering is still not

“volunteered” but this could be done with another board member or an ERFA member from Engineering. Ji-Mei will inform Advancement and work out details as planning progresses.

## 6. Discussion Items

**A. Fall Luncheon Speaker on Oct. 26.** Jo Bell, in the absence of Carmen, asked the Board for any additional suggestions regarding a speaker. Dennis suggested Jan English-Lueck, professor of anthropology, who has written a second book about Silicon Valley culture and will be featured on a three-part program on the Discovery Channel in March.

**B. New Award for SJSU-ERFA members.** Bob suggested that the organization should include retired faculty as part of the Faculty Research & Creativity Awards. In a handout, he quoted the group’s constitution which states, in part, “Encourage and facilitate the emeritus and retired faculty to continue their scholarly and professional activities...”

He proposed a change in the Faculty Research & Creative Activity Awards (AY2016-2017) that would be stated as follows: “The SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (ERFA) Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award HAS BEEN CREATED TO SUPPORT SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY BY CURRENT AND EMERITUS FACULTY.” Bob moved and Peter seconded to adopt this amendment. Dennis, citing the time, moved and Peter seconded to table this discussion and vote until the April 2 meeting. Approved by voice vote.

## 7. Reports

**A. Treasurer.** Abdel reported a balance of \$8,918.43, reflecting a \$1,200 payment for chartering two boats on the Elkhorn Slough. He reported 202 current paid members and suggested that the organization needs to increase PAID memberships.

**B. Membership.** Wayne reported 300 on the membership rolls. He sent 41 letters to prospective members and, to date, has only received one reply. He recently processed three applications

**C. Newsletter Editor.** Gene reported “no new news.” Nancie added that she has now found homes for 12 “Golden Apples,” for retired members who didn’t receive one when they retired.

**D. Webmaster.** Ji-Mei, reporting for Carol, reported “everything up to date.”

**E. Consolations.** Jill reported no new consolations this month.

**F. Film group.** Don reported that the group attended “Annihilation.” No report on the ending.

**G. Faculty Senate.** Peter reported that the Senate, for once, actually abolished a committee. The continuing education committee established in 1988 has been replaced by other structures as the College of International and Extended Studies. The Senate, without much progress over the past two years, is still debating non-disclosure agreements with companies that offer internships. In other news, Jim Walsh wrote a letter to President Papazian attacking her for

inviting Condoleezza Rice, former secretary of state, to campus for a lecture, which raises issues of free speech on a university campus.

**H. CSU-ERFA.** Bob reported that the state meeting will be in April. Don pointed out that the state ERFA is now open to membership from retired staff.

**I. AROHE.** Joan: No report

**J. Archivist.** Celia. No report

## **8. New Business.**

**A.** None

**9. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:46:22 (PST). Many thanks to Bill for snacks.

**The next meeting will be Monday, April 2, at 10 a.m. in Duncan Hall 249.**

### **Upcoming Refreshments:**

April 2 --- Joan

May 7 ----- Jo Bell

Dlw. Final Draft: 3/12/18