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## SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, May 1, 2017

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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## **Minutes: SJSU ERFA Executive Board Monday, May 1, 2017. Duncan Hall 249**

**Members Present**, Gene Bernardini, Peter Buzanski, Ji-Mei Chang, Carol Christensen, Jill Cody, Elba Maldonado-Colon, Barbara Conry, Adnan Daoud, Abdel El-Shaieb, Dolores Escobar-Hamilton, Nancie Fimbel, Don Keeseey, Bill McCraw, Joan Merdinger, Wayne Savage, Carmen Sigler, Jackie Snell, Jo Bell Whitlatch, Dennis Wilcox, Bob Wilson, and Marian Yoder.

1. **Call to order:** President Nancie Fimbel called the meeting to order at 10:02:20

2. **The Minutes** of April 3 were approved by voice vote after being moved by Peter and seconded by Wayne.

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

A. Nancie noted that May 1 was a good day to celebrate the working class because CSU retirees would be getting a COLA increase in May.

B. She noted that Peter was correct regarding the appointment of a nominations committee earlier in the year to adequately identify possible candidates for board positions. Nanci also noted that there should be more discussion next semester about the duties and assignments of "at-large" members to get them more integrated into the various committees of the Board.

### **4. Update on Events and Activities.**

**A. Spring Luncheon on May 19 at The Villages.** Jackie reported 13 reservations to date, but that was before board members had given her their reservations at the meeting. Dolores reported that all arrangements with the Villages were set.

**B. Fall Luncheon on October 27 at Michael's Shoreline.** Carmen, as chair of the speaker committee, distributed a list of possible speakers for the fall luncheon and gave a brief sketch of each one's area of expertise. She asked the board to rank their top five choices and return their list to her for tabulation, which was done as part of the discussion. Nancie complimented the committee on compiling such an extensive list of possible speakers. Gene noted that the committee should also keep in mind more entertainment-oriented programs such as a SJSU choir or jazz group.

### **5. Action Items**

**A. Approval of Slate for 2017-18.** The nominating committee (Nancie, Joan, and Ji-Mei) presented the following names for election to the Executive Board: VSP/President Elect – Elba Maldonado-Colon; Secretary (2 yr term) – Dennis Wilcox; Academic Senator – Peter Buzanski; Member-at-large (2 yr. term) – Bill McCraw; Member-at-large (2 yr. term) – Jo Bell Whitlatch. Carol moved and Gene seconded for approval of the nominees. Passed by unanimous vote. Ji-Mei, VP, is automatically elevated the prestigious position of president for 2017-2018.

**B. Ad Hoc Committee for Biographies of ERFA Members. JOAN – chair report.** Joan, chair of the committee, summarized the committee's three recommendations that were distributed by email prior to the meeting. The three recs: 1) a survey of the ERFA membership is not needed at this time, 2) exploring with Emily Chan in the library about the use of ScholarWorks as a build-out of the Bios area as part of the ERFA archives in the University Library, and 3) inviting Emily to attend the November ERFA board meeting to explore rec #2 in more detail. The committee's recs were accepted by unanimous vote. Joan noted that the library has been an excellent partner with the board on several archive projects. Serving on the committee in addition to Joan were Jo Bell, Carol, Celia, and Ji-Mei.

**C. Continuing Membership in AROHE for 2018.** Joan recommended that SJSU-ERFA continue its membership in the organization, which costs a grand total of \$120 annually. She noted that AROHE represents a variety of universities that have different structures for emeritus faculty organizations and that SJSU make a unique contribution because of our collective bargaining agreement. Dennis noted that the board can get new ideas about programs and recruitment of members by being part of AROHE. Bob objected to continuing membership and didn't see much benefit for the cost of joining. Peter moved and Jo Bell seconded to approve continuing SJSU-ERFA membership. The vote passed with one NO vote.

**D. Volunteers for the Snack Brigade.** A sign-up form was passed around for the 2017-18 meetings. See end of minutes for members of the brigade.

## **6. Reports**

**A. Treasurer.** Abdel reported that the current balance \$9, 319, 82 and estimated a balance of about \$10, 000 by the end of the fiscal year in July. He thanked the coffee brigade that helped haul the coffee up to Duncan Hall 249 every month.

**B. Membership.** Wayne reported no new members since last the last meeting

**C. Newsletter Editor.** Gene announced that the next newsletter would be mailed after the May 19 luncheon. It will also include a dues statement.

**D. Webmaster.** Carol reported that efforts to get member email addresses was fairly successful because the one-to-one personal request by a "trusted source" elicited a better response.

**E. Consolations.** Jill reported that a note was sent to Howard Young, the son of Carlene Young (a former member of ERFA).

**F. Film group.** Marian and Don reported no film was attended since last meeting, but a film is being selected for May.

**G. Faculty Senate.** Peter reported more media stories about higher education had appeared in the past several months. An ongoing concern of his is the increase in administrators (15%) vs. faculty (7%) in the CSU system over the past decade. Even the recent executive committee minutes of the Faculty Senate noted that it might be useful to have a new VP of research and innovation on campus. He also noted that SJSU has increased its development staff from 7 to

70 in the last several years. The problem, says Peter, is that such staff are paid out of the general fund but that the money they raise goes to specific non-general-fund projects such as endowed scholarships, etc. A current controversy is that the chancellor's office in Long Beach decided on a new policy regarding "academic freedom" for the 23 campuses without any faculty representation on the committee. The SJSU faculty senate and the CSU faculty senate have voiced their strong objections to the chancellor's office. It's unclear when and if the policy will be official.

**H. CSU-ERFA.** Joan emailed the board before the meeting a summary of the CSU-ERFA State Council spring meeting in Dominguez Hills. There was a discussion about a CSU "intellectual property" policy being implemented, again, without faculty input. Membership recruitment was also discussed as an issue for the state CSU and various campuses as older faculty die-off, to put it bluntly. She brought 100 CSU-ERFA brochures back with her for distribution to SJSU faculty who are FERPing or fully retiring. There was also a brief discussion about the difference between pensions being protected by the State Constitution but health benefits being subject to future collective bargaining changes.

**I. Archivist.** No report

**j. Faculty Award Committee:** no report

**7. New Business.** None proposed. Joan noted that Elna Green, AVP of faculty affairs, was helpful in assisting with ERFA membership recruitment in the FERP program and Amy Strage in the Center for Faculty Development was extremely helpful in the Faculty Awards program. Elna is leaving the University, so Joan has an appointment with her on May 22 to discuss how our cooperation with Faculty Affairs would continue next year.

**8. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11.27.06. The next meeting will be Monday, **September 11** at 10 a.m., in Duncan Hall 249. Thanks to Marian for snacks.

**Upcoming Refreshments:**

**September 11:** Carmen

**October 2:** Wayne

**November 6:** Carol

**December 4:** Dennis

**February 5:** Elba

**March 5:** Bill

**April 2:** Jo Bell

**May 7:** Joan

Dlw.6.24.17 second draft.

