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SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, December 3, 2018

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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Minutes: SJSU ERFA Executive Board Monday, December 3, 2018

Members Present, Celia Bakke, Gene Bernardini, Peter Buzanski, Ji-Mei Chang, Elba Maldonado-Colon, Barbara Conry, Abdel El-Shaieb, Dolores Escobar-Hamilton, Chris Jochim, Don Keeseey, Joan Merdinger, Susan McClory, 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 Elba at 10:01:55 PST

2. The Minutes of the November board meeting were approved with one abstain.

3. President's Remarks. Elba, on behalf of the board, expressed appreciation for the service of Peter, academic senate rep, and Dennis, secretary, who will be leaving the board effective with this meeting. She celebrated their service over the years in terms of their commitment and contributions to the University community and ERFA. She wished them well in their future endeavors, and the board (taking the opportunity for a stretch) gave Peter and Dennis a standing ovation.

She also welcomed Susan McClory to the board who will fulfill Peter's term as ERFA's rep to the Academic Senate for the rest of the 2018-19 year. She also gave thanks to 1) the nominations committee and their plan of action, 2) the program committee's research on potential sites for the spring outing, and 3) the efforts of Abdel and Jo Bell to contact members who have not yet renewed their membership for 2019-20. Elba also noted that she has invited deans and other major University administrators to the Holiday celebration and, so far, has received three RSVPs. Jackie, who is taking member reservations, reported that 14 so far have RSVP'd, but it's traditional that most people don't RSVP to the event but just show up. She encouraged Board members to RSVP by email.

4. Information Items

A. **Holiday Celebration Update.** Lonna reported that everything has been ordered and that Dennis was handling the wine delivery to catering. She also gave Spartan Eats a copy of our tax-exempt status, thus saving \$205 that the caterer was planning to charge ERFA. After the event, she is still planning to have a talk with Charlie Faas, VP of administration and finance, about the conflicting estimates of costs that Spartan Eats provided over several months of negotiations. Jackie was disappointed that the famous "coconut shrimp," of past Holiday Celebrations was no longer on the menu and asked if Lonna might be able to secure the recipe from the famous chef who prepared this iconic dish in past years.

5. Action Items

A. Celia Named Acting Secretary. Celia was approved by the Board to fulfill the term of Dennis as secretary until officer elections in May at the business meeting. This follows the resignation of Dennis who is moving to Davis in January.

B. Nominations Committee. Chris, as chair of the committee, reported that the call for nominations was in the latest ERFA newsletter. The positions to be filled are vice president, secretary, academic senate rep, and two members at large. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 1. He encouraged the board to nominate themselves or make suggestions of possible candidates. Peter noted that the academic senate should have the name of ERFA's rep by February. Susan indicated to the nominations committee and the Board that she was interested becoming a candidate for Academic Senate rep next year.

C. ERFA Reps for December Commencement. Elba reported that the University has requested an ERFA rep attend the December commencement. There was some confusion on whether the University was having one commencement or several college events. The University website, according to Susan, indicated several commencements by college, so Elba will confirm with the university as to how many "commencements" there are and whether there should be an ERFA rep at each of them.

D. Spring Outing Selection. In the absence of Carmen, Barbara and Jo Bell reported that the survey of the Board indicated that the top three venues were (1) California Maritime Academy and Mare Island Historic Park, 2) Oakland Zoo, and 3) Oakland Museum of California. Gene moved, Joan 2nd that the committee be authorized to do further research on the viability of the three sites and return with a formal recommendation in February. Discussion centered on whether the program committee could make the final decision without further Board input, but the motion to bring it back to the Board for the final approval passed with one abstain.

E. Membership Survey. Jo Bell, in the absence of Mary Jo, reported that the pilot survey was successful in terms of members understanding the survey. One change was recommended: that the question "The cost of the meal was not reasonable" to "The price of the meal was too high." Another change, recommended by Lonna, was to change the Holiday Reception to 2018 instead of "2017" since the survey will be conducted after the first of the year. Jo Bell reported that the survey can be distributed and tabulated at no charge to ERFA by using the University's contract with Qualtrics, an online research firm. She volunteered to learn the program and administer the survey. Jo Bell moved, Peter 2nd, to move ahead with member survey and to use Qualtrics. Approved with one abstain.

F. Faculty Awards. Joan moved, Peter 2nd that a minimum of one faculty award for creative and scholarly work be awarded to a lecturer or a tenure-track professor. This followed a robust discussion about the pros and cons of "reserving" one of the two planned awards this year for a lecturer or a tenure-track professor. Some expressed the view that perhaps there would be no proposals in this category that would merit an award; others said that the original purpose of the awards was to help tenure-track professors achieve promotion instead of just giving awards to tenured faculty who already have a record of scholarly achievement. After some back and forth (somewhat like watching a verbal ping-pong game), an amendment was accepted that

stated “That a minimum of one faculty award may be awarded to a lecturer or a tenure-track professor.” Several board members objected to the “watering down” of the intent of the original motion, but in the vote, 9 approved, 7 opposed, and 1 abstained – so the motion passed. In addition, Lonna volunteered to join the review committee with Joan and Ji-Mei.

6. Discussion Items. None proposed

7. New Business. None proposed

8. Reports

A. Treasurer. Abdel reported the current balance of \$13,838.30. There are now 217 paid members thanks to the addition of 17 new members as a result of Jo-Bell's and his outreach to last year's members who have not yet renewed. Elba volunteered to be the co-signer on the ERFA checking account to replace Peter who is retiring from the Board.

B. Membership. Wayne reported that there are 284 members on his roster. This is his 11th year as membership chair and announced that he will step down at the conclusion of the current academic year. The board gave him a round of applause and expressed appreciation for his outstanding service over the years.

C. Newsletter Editor. Gene reported that the fall newsletter has been mailed with a parking permit for the Holiday Celebration on Friday, Dec. 7th. He encouraged Board members to contribute Chat Room notes and write articles for the newsletter about their travels, etc.

D. Archivist. Celia: No report

E. Consolations. Jill: No report.

F. Committees

1) Program committee: Reported in 5D.

2) Receptions. Dolores has made a deposit on the room at the Villages for the May 10 business meeting. A brief discussion about program – Opera San Jose was suggested last year.

3) Faculty Awards. Joan reported that 7 applications have been received to date. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 6.

4) Biographies. Joan reported that 32 are now on ScholarWorks.

5) Film Group. Don reported that the group recently viewed “The Green Room,” which he described in less enthusiastic terms as “entertaining.”

G. Academic Senate. Peter, who is now retiring from the esteemed position of ERFA rep on the Academic Senate, reflected on his long-term relationship with the University and the Academic Senate. He began with the 17th president (Walquist) and is ending with the 30th president Mary Papazian.

H. Webmaster. Carol: No report

I. CSU-ERFA. Don provided a handout summarizing the State Council Report of October 2018. Some issues discussed: 1) “closed” vs. “open” searches for campus presidents, 2) increased concern for declining membership in CSU-ERFA and the need for vigorous recruitment, (3) future retiree benefits between CFA and CSU up for negotiation, and (4) the decision to change Bylaw language specifying two state council meetings each year to “at least one meeting a per year.”

J. AROHE. Joan presented a paper at the recent national conference and has been re-elected to the national board.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58:21. Many thanks to Dennis for great chocolate chip cookies and fruit including grapes and pineapple.

The next deliberations will be Monday, February 4, DH249.

Snack assignments for upcoming meetings:

2/4/19 Ji-Mei

3/4/19 Bill

4/1/19 Jo Bell

5/6/19 Jackie

Dlw.. Final draft 12/12/18