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SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, December 7, 2015

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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SJSU ERFA Executive Board Meeting

Monday, December 7, 2015 Duncan Hall 348

Members Present: Gene Bernardini, Peter Buzanski, Carol Christensen, Jill Cody, Abdel El-Shaieb, Nancie Fimbel, Don Keeseey, Bill McCraw, Joan Merdinger, Wayne Savage, Carmen Sigler, Lonna Smith, Jo Bell Whitlatch, Dennis Wilcox, Bob Wilson, and Marian Yoder.

1. **Call to order:** President Jo Bell called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes** of November 2 was approved with three abstaining.

3. **President's Remarks.** Jo Bell thanked Joan and Lonna for serving as chair and secretary of the November meeting while she and Dennis were traveling.

4. **Updates on Holiday Party on Friday, Dec. 11.** Carmen reported only 13 responses to date as a result of an email reminder, but noted that most members of the board had also not replied yet. A sign-up list was passed around. Gene mentioned that the delay of the December newsletter mailing may be a factor, and Joan suggested another email reminder be sent. Jo Bell mentioned that the event was free so many people probably fail to RSVP even though they planned to attend. Nancie reported that several administrators and deans will be attending, including Interim President Susan Martin who will be introduced by Jo Bell and make some short remarks at the beginning of the gathering. Lonna reported that the food has been ordered from Spartan Shops and that Adnan will be delivering the wine.

5. **Update on Spring Excursion.** Carmen reported that the field trip to the Computer History museum will be Friday, March 25, at 10 a.m. The cost is \$16 per person for a tour by a docent. She suggested that a notice about the event be mailed by Feb. 15th to the membership to begin the process of getting registrations and payment. This notice to members, if possible, would be included in the February newsletter but should be mailed as a separate notice if the newsletter is not ready until the end of the month. Carmen also suggested that a back-up person be designated in case the chair of the event becomes incapacitated or needs assistance to complete all the event details. Nancie, as VP, volunteered to be a designated back-up if she was needed.

6. Action Items

a. **Membership recruitment.** Wayne reported that he continues to send letters to names and addresses provided by CSU-ERFA. He has also dropped from the mailing list former members from several years ago who didn't respond to a request to pay current dues. Currently, there are 279 current members on the mailing list. There was extensive discussion about other ways to reach potential members. Joan again suggested that the board should actively work to have the University (the provost or the president) reinstate a reception at the end of the academic year for retiring faculty, and the ideal location would be the president's home. She also noted that faculty affairs does send a congratulatory letter to those professors granted emeritus

status, but long-term lecturers who retire are not part of this list so there needs to be another way of also reaching them. Wayne noted that CSU-ERFA list that he receives isn't very helpful because it only provides names and addresses, even though the membership application probably includes a person's telephone and email address.

Lonna suggested that ERFA could ask department chairs to place a recruitment letter in the boxes of retiring faculty and long-term lecturers (under the PERS system). Wayne was asked to prepare a modified membership letter that would be presented at the February meeting. Joan suggested that the group should also make a greater effort to contact faculty who are on FERP since they are still currently at the University and their email, phone numbers are readily available. Don, however, noted that perhaps ERFA funding of grants to faculty would give ERFA more visibility among the faculty and promote additional memberships as a result.

Peter and Carmen noted that perhaps a decline in ERFA membership is inevitable because the culture of the University has radically changed with ever-increasing use of adjunct lecturers who have no loyalty or long-term association with the University.

b. Meeting with the President. Jo Bell reported that she will schedule a date and time with Susan Martin to give her a briefing on the mission of ERFA, the Faculty research awards initiative, how the university might be able to provide more assistance in getting the names and addresses of retiring faculty and lecturers, re-instating a president's reception for retiring faculty, and how ERFA could be of assistance to her. Once a date and time is selected, Jo Bell will query the officers and other elected members of the board to form a delegation.

7. Reports

a. Treasurer. Abdel reported that the current balance was \$9,378.01 and that the expected balance by June will be about \$5,000. He also reported that, to date, \$2,975 in membership donations has been received to help fund the faculty scholarship grants. Members may contribute by writing a check to the SJSU Tower Foundation with the notation designating the donation to SJSU-ERFA. Checks should be mailed directly to Abdel for deposit.

b. Membership. Wayne had no further report other than what was previously discussed.

c. Newsletter Editor. Gene reported that the next newsletter will be published in February, ideally by Feb. 15 if there are enough articles by that time. There was a brief discussion about encouraging a greater variety of articles by the board and other members. Nancie suggested a round-up article of interesting or weird things members of the board are doing. Lonna volunteered to coordinate some feedback from board members after the first of the year.

d. Webmaster. Carol reported that everything is current.

e. Consolations. Jill reported a condolence letter sent to the two daughters of Richard Cramer. It was noted that an obit about Jerry Kemp, instructional resources, had just appeared in the *S.J. Mercury News*. Jill will send condolences to the Kemp family.

f. **Small groups.** Don reported that eight attended “Brooklyn” and several board members noted that it was an excellent movie.

g. **Faculty Senate.** Peter reported that the Statewide Faculty Senate recommended to the vice chancellor of human resources that the CSU Trustees should include another faculty representative and even a rep from the retired faculty – which was flatly rejected. In other news, the CSU Trustees rescinded an honorary degree given to Bill Cosby. The SJSU faculty senate debated the University attendance and participation student policy and finally concluded that professors could not require attendance. On other fronts, the Board of General Studies and the General Education Advisory Panels (GEAPs) continue to have their differences.

h. **CSU-ERFA.** Bob reported there would be changes in social security based on income. Joan added that, following an annual written request, CALPERS can add additional Medicare Part B reimbursement to a CSU retiree’s check, based on the November notice from Social Security that includes the retiree’s upcoming IRMAA (income related monthly adjustment amount). Joan will send an email with a link to the CALPERS webpage with information about requesting an IRMAA adjustment.

i. **Archivist.** Celia was unable to attend but reported by email that she had established for the Webmaster, Carol, a contact for sending the minutes and newsletter for archiving.

8. **New Business.** None proposed, but Bob commented that perhaps ERFA should also fund grants to retired faculty for scholarly activity. Jo Bell said she would put this topic on the February agenda for discussion.

8. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11:41 p.m.

9. **Snacks:** Thanks to Jo Bell.

Upcoming Refreshments:

- February 1: Marian
- March 7: Lonna
- April 4: Wayne
- May 2: Gene

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