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SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, February 1, 2016

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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SJSU ERFA Executive Board Meeting

Monday, February 1, Duncan Hall 348

Members Present: Celia Bakke, Gene Bernardini, Peter Buzanski, Jill Cody, Barbara Conry, Adnan Daoud, Dolores Escobar-Hamilton, Abdel El-Shaieb, 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 10:05 a.m.

2. **The Minutes** of December 7 were approved by unanimous vote.

3. **President's Remarks.** Jo Bell reported that many individuals had donated to the 2016 Faculty Awards program, and gave thanks to the board for their contributions. She will be sending a personal note on behalf of SJSU-ERFA to everyone who made a donation in addition to the "thank you" letters already sent by the Tower Foundation. Dennis will prepare a first draft. She also welcomed Barbara Conry back to the board after missing several meetings because of health issues.

4. **Update on Spring Excursion.** Carmen reported that the field trip to the Computer History museum will be **Friday, March 25**, at 11 a.m. The cost is \$16 per person for a tour by a docent, which is limited to 40 ERFA members and their guests. She suggested that a flyer about the event be mailed at least three weeks before reservations are due on March 4, and Gene said it would be in the February newsletter, which will be mailed about Feb. 15. He suggested that the flyer also include a note about anyone needing a ride should contact Carmen when they make their reservation. The URL for driving directions will also be included in the flyer.

5. **Revenues and Expenses for 2015.** Abdel distributed a summary of revenues and expenses for 2015. Total membership dues and CSU-ERFA rebates were \$8,499. Another \$4,917 of revenue was generated from the Disney Museum field trip and the spring/fall luncheons, vs. expenditures of \$4,921 on these three events. Other selected expenditures: Holiday Party, \$1,994; Directory/Newsletters, \$2,104; and Coffee to keep members awake at board meetings, \$576.

6. **Review of December Holiday Party.** Lonna reported that the gathering was a success and pronounced that the ever-popular coconut shrimp was up to its old standards. She has made reservations for the holiday party this year for **Friday, Dec. 9**, and recommended that catering order be based on 80 attending instead of

100, given the attendance of about 85 last year. Jo Bell and other board members complimented Lonna on a job well done, and particularly on her negotiating skills to get a \$300 refund from Spartan Shops because of dirty plates, a lack of napkins, etc. on the serving line.

7. Action Items

a. Membership recruitment. Jo Bell distributed a list of inactive members for the board to review. In many cases, individuals have dropped out because of major health problems or had passed away. She also noted that some inactive members apparently had moved out of the area so it was important to remind them that, although they may not be able to attend meetings, they did receive benefits such as the newsletter, the membership directory, and keeping in contact with former colleagues. Various board members commented on the status of those on the list who they knew and would be willing to contact about becoming members of SJSU-ERFA again.

Dennis volunteered to write up some “talking points” for board members to use when following-up with a phone call or email to a prospective member. Dolores pointed out that any “talking points” should also place an emphasis on SJSU as an “exciting place” with many new developments that would interest retired faculty, such as the appointment of a new university president and ERFA’s support of faculty research. Jo Bell also mentioned that even if a prospect was not interested in joining, a pitch should be made for them to make a donation to the ERFA Faculty Awards program.

General discussion also centered on how a prospect would get an application form. Dennis suggested that the board member should get the prospect’s address or email so the form could be directly sent to them for follow-up. Jo Bell noted that Wayne should be kept informed in terms of any follow-up by a board member.

b. Northern California Consortium of Emeritus Faculty. Joan requested that the board support the hosting the fall meeting of the group, which would be about 15 individuals from various Bay Area colleges and universities. There would be no expense to SJSU-ERFA because the office of faculty development (Amy Strage) has volunteered to provide the room and even pay for the lunch. Even parking would be paid by the consortium. The board expressed its support for “hosting” the meeting on the campus.

8. Reports

a. **Treasurer.** Abdel reported that the current balance was \$9,531 and that the expected balance by June will be about \$7,000 after upcoming expenses. He also reported that \$4,050 in donations have been received to fund the faculty research awards program. In sum, two \$2,500 awards will be made this year, and only \$1,000 of ERFA dues revenues will be needed to make up the difference. Joan mentioned that the Tower Foundation charges a 5 percent fee, so each award will cost \$125 in foundation fees, which can't be waived.

Peter expressed the opinion that such fees were outrageous and perhaps ERFA should use another non-profit or organization to administer the grants. Several board members disagreed saying that use of another agency to administer the funds would only confuse the "branding" of the grants as a SJSU project and recipient of future donations. Joan also mentioned that the Tower Foundation only funds specific types of grants, which doesn't include teaching release time to do research.

b. **Membership.** Wayne reported that several individuals had renewed their membership and that an insert into the directory should be included in the next newsletter. Currently, there are 286 members on the roster, which includes 47 who have not paid this year and 27 who have now paid through 2017.

c. **Newsletter Editor.** Gene reported that the next newsletter will be published in mid-February, and all articles must be submitted by Feb. 8th. It was agreed that an article about the Faculty Research Awards should be included, and Joan will write-up something for the newsletter.

d. **Webmaster.** Jo Bell said Carol was traveling, but told her everything was up-to-date.

e. **Consolations.** Jill reported a condolence letter about Jerry Kemp, instructional resources, sent to the family. She also shared a note from Judith Blasé, widow of Ken Blasé (Journalism) thanking ERFA for their expression of sympathy and condolence.

f. **Small groups.** Don and Marian reported that the latest movie viewed by the group was "Carol."

g. **Faculty Senate.** Peter reported that Sue Martin, interim president, withdrew from the presidential search because she was not able/willing to make what she considered a 5-7 year commitment to the University in order to be an effective leader.

Peter noted that the newly appointed president, Mary Papazian (57), currently president of Southern Connecticut University, has gone on record to make a long-term commitment to SJSU as its 3rd female president in the 159-year history of SJSU. She is currently president of Southern Connecticut University, a campus of 11,000 students. Her husband, Dennis, is a retired history professor from the U. of Michigan (Dearborn campus) and founder of the Armenian Research Center at the university. He is very active in the movement for the international community to condemn Turkey for genocide of Armenians in the early 20th century.

h. CSU-ERFA. The state council meeting will be held in San Jose on April 23. ERFA board members are invited to attend.

i. Archivist. Celia made no report at this time, but will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

9. New Business.

a. Bob mentioned research grants for retired faculty is important to think about, but he's not "driven" to make this an issue at the present time.

b. Jo Bell mentioned that the board should thank the biology department for the use of a meeting room over the years. Some suggestions were 1) a donation to the department chair's discretionary fund, 2) a letter of appreciation, and 3) a bouquet of flowers, or (4) two dozen donuts for the next faculty meeting. This will be further discussed at the March meeting.

c. Dolores suggested that ERFA should consider making a donation to the university library in memorial to past president Gail Fullerton who passed away recently. Further discussion at the March meeting.

d. Abdel suggested that it would be nice for a rep from Facilities to give a report on campus construction projects and other physical plant improvements – perhaps once a year to keep the board informed on developments.

10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:41 p.m.

11. Snacks: Thanks to Marian Yoder

Upcoming Refreshments:

- March 7: Lonna
- April 4: Wayne
- May 2: Gene

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Dlw 2/16/16: 2nd draft