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SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, March 7, 2016

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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SJSU ERFA Executive Board Meeting

Monday, March 7, Duncan Hall 249

Members Present: Celia Bakke, Gene Bernardini, Peter Buzanski, Jill Cody, Barbara Conry, Adnan Daoud, Dolores Escobar-Hamilton, Abdel El-Shaieb, Don Keesey, , 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 10:04 a.m.

2. **The Minutes** of February 1 were approved by unanimous vote.

3. **President's Remarks.** Jo Bell complimented Carmen for bringing a new member, Irene Carrion Upson and encouraged other board members to also contact their friends and former colleagues about joining SJSU-ERFA.

4. **Update on Spring Excursion.** Carmen reported that, to date, 23 had signed up for the field trip to the Computer History museum will be **Friday, March 25**, at 11 a.m. One possible reason for what Carmen described as "less than an overwhelming response" was the fact that March 25 is also Good Friday. The deadline for sign-ups was Friday, March 4, but she asked board members to contact her this week if they wanted to make a reservation. Carmen also suggested that discussion and planning of a fall event be placed on the April agenda.

5. **Report of the Meeting with Interim President Martin.** Jo Bell reported, in a separate attachment to the board, a summary of the meeting. She added that she has been in continuing contact with Provost Andy Feinstein and Faculty Affairs to organize a reception for faculty who have just FERPed or have fully retired from the University this academic year.

6. **Membership Recruitment.** Jo Bell called attention to the member recruitment "talking points" prepared by Dennis and distributed by email to the board. Don mentioned that the point about paying local membership dues via a person's CALPERS pension check should be clarified because this was only available to those who are CSU-ERFA members. In addition, the point was made that retired faculty could join SJSU-ERFA without being a member of the CSU-ERFA.

7. **Procedure Manual for ERFA committees.** Jo Bell expressed the need for the development of established (written) procedures for various ERFA projects to ensure continuity as members who developed and chaired these projects leave the board and move on to more leisurely pursuits. A particular case in point is the establishment of procedures for conducting the annual faculty research/creativity awards. This will be an agenda item for the April meeting.

8. **Spring Luncheon/Business Meeting.** Dolores reported that the room at the Villages for the luncheon on May 6 has been reserved. There may be some extra costs depending on the need for the services of an AV person to set up sound, projectors, etc. depending on the

needs of the invited speaker, Provost Andy Feinstein. The menu will be decided at the April meeting of the board. Celia volunteered to take reservations. Deadline for reservations will be April 25, and Gene will send a reservation flyer to members in early April. Jo Bell stated that she would invite the two recipients of the faculty research/creative awards to the luncheon and ask them to give a 3-4 minute summary of their projects for the edification of all the scholars attending the luncheon.

9. Tower Foundation Relationship. Jo Bell delayed this discussion until the April meeting when Nancie and Joan are present and can share their observations and recommendations.

10. Action Items

A. Recommendations for Award of Faculty Research/Creativity Awards. Dennis made a report on behalf of Joan, chair of the selection process, in which he and Nancie also served on the committee. The two awardees recommended are Katherine Harris, associate professor of English, and Faustina DuCros, assistant professor of Sociology. Don moved, Carol seconded that the two awards be approved. Motion passed.

There was some concern about the number of applicants this year (16 vs. 40+ last year), but Jo Bell explained that this may have been the result of another competition on campus by the University at the same time that entailed higher awards for research proposals. The timing of such a conflict will definitely be avoided next year.

Another discussion point was the fact that the Tower Foundation takes a “cut” of \$175 for administration so the award recipient only receives \$2,325. It was suggested by several board members that perhaps ERFA should pay this “extra” fee off the top so the recipient would receive the full \$2,500. Abdel was asked to check with the Tower Foundation about whether this would be possible. Jo Bell will send the Board Joan’s full report on the number of applicants, colleges represented, etc.

B. Archival Collecting Policies. Celia will give a report and update at the April meeting.

C. Nominating Committee Appointments. Positions to be filled are VP, Treasurer, and Member-At-Large. The nominating committee will consist of Jo Bell, Peter, Lonna, and Barbara, which will convene to consider candidates. There was a general discussion regarding various potential candidates and a number of Board members indicated that they would be willing to serve another year in various positions, such as treasurer, newsletter editor, and membership.

Jo Bell mentioned that she would also like to have individuals appointed by the incoming president to be program chair and faculty awards chair. The nominating committee will announce its selections at the May 2 meeting, and the slate will be presented for membership approval at the May 6 luncheon/business meeting.

D. Thanking the Biology Department. Abdel made the motion to give the department chair \$100 in cash as a thank you for allowing the board to use DH249 for its monthly meetings, but the motion died for lack of a second. Several members, including Dennis and Carmen, strongly

objected to a “cash” gift because University policy generally frowned on “laundering” money and providing cash to a department head. Gene made the motion for an “edible” gift of up to \$100, Lonna seconded, and motion passed. Lonna volunteered to research various gift baskets that would be appropriate.

E. Memorial to Gail Fullerton. Abdel made the motion to give the University Library \$1,000 as a memorial recognizing Gail’s 13 years as president of SJSU. This led to a somewhat spirited discussion about whether such a gift should be \$500 or \$1,000. Dennis and Peter advocated for \$500, but others on the board (Delores, Gene, Marian, Abdel, Bob) spoke in defense of the higher amount. The motion to give \$1,000 passed with two “no” votes.

F. A Facilities Update on Campus Construction. The board expressed interest in having a rep from Facilities give up to a 20-minute update at the April or May meeting on the progress of campus construction and renovation projects. Peter will contact Facilities to make arrangements.

11. Reports

a. **Treasurer.** Abdel reported that the current balance was \$9,741.98 and that the expected balance by the end of June will be about \$8,000. He also reported that \$4,690 in donations have been received to fund the faculty research awards program, which included 2nd donations from two individuals from last year.

b. **Membership.** Wayne reported one new member, Irene Upson, and that the total membership now stood at 286.

c. **Newsletter Editor.** Gene asked the board about how to handle obits for faculty spouses. The general conclusion was that such “obits” should just be announced in the “chat room.”

d. **Webmaster.** Carol reported that everything was up to date.

e. **Consolations.** Jill reported condolences were being sent to Mary Bowman, Gail Fullerton’s husband, and the family of Leonard Espinosa.

f. **Small groups.** Don and Marian reported that the latest movie viewed by the group was “Whisky Tango Fox Trot.”

g. **Faculty Senate.** Peter reported that he attended the reception for incoming president Mary Papazian and was very impressed that she was able to talk, without notes, for 30 minutes about current issues facing SJSU. He also reported that the Faculty Senate has passed a number of proposals this year thanks, in part, to a close relationship with Provost Andy Feinstein. In the good news department, Ramiro and Lupe Diaz Compean made a \$15 million gift to SJSU – the largest gift by an individual in SJSU history -- and that the new Student Union will be named in their honor.

h. **CSU-ERFA.** The state council meeting will be held in San Jose on April 23. Jo Bell will attend to help represent SJSU-ERFA in addition to Don, Adnan, Bob, and Joan.

i. **Archivist.** Celia will make a report at the April meeting.

12. New Business

A. None proposed, but various items mentioned in the meeting (and these minutes) will be taken up at the April meeting.

13. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11: 51 p.m. as it started to rain again. Yea.

A. **Snacks:** Thanks to Lonna

Upcoming Refreshments:

- April 4: Wayne
- May 2: Gene

Dlw 3.14.16 Final Draft