

Southern Oregon University Retirees Association  
Jan. 22, 2014, Council Meeting Minutes  
(Approved as corrected 4/2/14)

1. Call to Order

Co-President Ralph Fidler called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Others in attendance were council members Bonnie Rott, Lorraine Skaff-Winger, Tom Pyle, Barbara Irvin, Herman Schmeling, Ed Hungerford, former council president Bev DeLaZerda and SOU staff members Jeanne Stallman and Anya Neher.

2. Minutes of Oct. 23, 2013, meeting of council  
Approved as written and distributed.

3. Number of council meetings

Ralph recalled discussion at last meeting, saying he hoped we could reach agreement on number of times council should meet each year. Bev said decision is really up to the president, but that one meeting before each luncheon and one to introduce and orientate new council members would probably be the minimum needed (present policy is to have five a year). Ralph suggested the four times Bev mentioned and that additional meetings would be called only when deemed necessary. His plan was endorsed by consensus of those in attendance.

4. Feb. 28, 2014, luncheon

Ralph said Bonnie and Wayne Schmacher met with assistant housing director Eric Elordi. It was determined that holding a business meeting in the new residence halls would be difficult, but that we could gather to socialize and eat in the dining hall there, have a question and answer session with Eric regarding the new facilities and take a tour of them. Lunch would be self-serve from buffet stations and cost \$5 per person. Ralph said notice of the location and low cost is in the upcoming association newsletter, so it could prove to be a popular choice of venue. Parking should be plentiful at the McNeal Hall lot and elsewhere near the residence hall. Ralph and Bonnie will direct people to dining room. Attendees should plan to arrive at 11 for socializing and then eat at 11:30. Scholarship donations will be taken by Lorraine and Ralph at name-tag table.

5. Retiree Association scholarships

Barbara, Ralph and Jeanne recently met to discuss the GPA requirements, amount of money available and other matters related to the scholarship. Jeanne handed out an information sheet (attached) covering the scholarship's history and outlining policies related to it. She said that as of Dec. 31, 2013, the scholarship fund had a \$26,630.90 market value and that the amount "expendable" is \$3,832. She said earnings each year are about \$1,250, bringing to over \$4,000 the total available for distribution. Bonnie moved (Lorraine seconded) that we award \$1,200 for the coming academic year and foreseeable future. It was pointed out that this figure comes close to matching the current earnings on our fund balance. Jeanne said that was a goal when the scholarship was set up. Motion passed unanimously. Jeanne will contact appropriate offices to begin the scholarship award process.

#### 6. Nominating committee for new council members

Ralph pointed out that Barbara, Tom, Wayne, Lavelle Castle and Pete Belcastro will be leaving the council after this year unless they are renominated and reelected. Barbara, Tom and Lorraine said they did not wish to seek reelection.

Tom and Ralph volunteered to serve on nominating committee. Ralph said he would ask Lavelle and Wayne to also serve on it. Ralph said that Don Reynolds will be unable to remain on the council because of health issues, meaning that six (instead of the usual five) new members must be elected this spring. Don's replacement would serve one year and the others three each.

#### 7. Spring luncheon May 16, 2013

Sally Klein had invited SOU President Cullinan to be featured speaker. Anya will check to make sure that will be the case. Event will be in the student union unless Ralph can find a space -- possibly McNeal Hall -- where we can meet and hear the president's remarks and then go to the new dining hall for lunch.

#### 8. Future of the organization

How to get new retirees to join the association and come to luncheons was mentioned as a major issue, but attracting more retirees from earlier years was also brought up. Bonnie said we need to find a way to connect with new retirees to find out what they would like to see us doing and being. We need to let them know we exist, said Lorraine. Bev and others pointed out that it is very hard to identify those retiring from service as staff members, whereas faculty retirees are identifiable through the provost's office. Jeanne said association pioneer Hal Cloer had a survey done seeking retirees' opinions related to the association. The results, she said, indicated they liked the luncheons and the newsletter. Bev said a survey was done when she was president and that it would be wise to compare the results. She said we should make phone calls to new retirees as a followup on letters they receive from association. Barbara added that it would be nice if staff and faculty knew retirees association existed well before they retired rather than just hearing about us at the last minute. The group agreed to look at the surveys mentioned and continue the conversation at our next and future meetings.

#### 9. Announcements

Ralph said co-president Dave Hoffman is undergoing treatment at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland and that he is doing well.

Tom said that a memorial service for former council president Jerry Insley is tentatively planned for April 5, pending selection of a location.

#### 10. Next council meeting

The next meeting will be April 2 in order to have time to get necessary information into newsletter before May 16 luncheon.

#### 11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.