

Southern Oregon University Retirees Association
Council Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2011

President Sue Corp began the meeting at 3:08 pm in Room B of the Campbell Center. Present were Sue Corp, Lodi Belford, Bruce Moats, Pat Wolfe, Don Reynolds, Dave Hoffman, Sally Klein, Jerry Insley, Jeanne Stallman, Jim Dean, Wayne Schumacher., and Thom Jones.

Last Meeting's Minutes

The minutes of the January 19, 2011 minutes taken by Lodi were approved without correction.

Old Business

SOU Privileges to Retirees

Jeanne and others reviewed the history of the inclusion of staff into the Retirees' Association which prior to this proposal and subsequent vote of the membership had included only Emeriti Faculty. With this inclusive change of membership for the association came confusion as to what privileges were and were not applicable to the entire association membership. Faculty privileges are contractually identified; however, no such SOU-staff contract exists for administrative faculty and staff. The only existing staff contract is the collective bargaining agreement for classified staff, and in which retiree privileges are not addressed. Jeanne indicated that as this topic had arisen in recent years, the administration had decided not to simply expand the contractual retiree faculty privileges to the retired staff for various reasons. Non-transferability of privileges also evidently can apply in instances to spouses of deceased faculty. Case in point: parking permits.

Because the *primary* purpose of combining faculty and staff together in the Retiree's Association is for social connection and interaction among all University retirees, extending the existing full slate of faculty privileges to retired staff could be considered secondary or extraneous, as well as difficult to manage. Another consideration is that staff, unlike faculty, do not retain their ID cards after retiring, so identification of the non-ID-cardholders for the purpose of participating in granted privileges would be difficult.

Sue conducted a survey of campus departments to determine what privileges are currently available to both faculty and staff retirees. Responses were returned by the Bookstore, Athletics, Performing Arts, Music, and Schneider Museum with a range of benefits (or not) for University retirees.

Jeanne added that, as we all know, the University is under considerable pressure to simplify and economize, and the present time would likely not be fruitful for pressing the administration for further consideration of benefit/privilege expansion. Jim suggested it would be helpful to hear from the administration what rationale they have for NOT equalizing retiree privileges in order to gain a better perspective on this issue.

It was decided to investigate what other Universities similar to ours are providing in terms of retiree privileges for both faculty and staff, and revisit this issue when we have more information. Sally offered to do some checking on this, to which the Council expressed great appreciation for her efforts.

Retirees' Association Funding Issues

Discussion continued from previous meetings about funding of the Association's activities after Elderhostel underwriting (newsletters and luncheons) ends this Fall. A lively discussion ensued about the merits of an annual membership fee (amount?), what it would include (newsletter?, luncheon costs?, scholarship contribution?, parking permit? other?). There was agreement that the newsletter should be sent to everyone, whether or not an annual fee is received from a retiree. Another questionnaire will be circulated at the March 4 luncheon to seek feedback on the specifics discussed.

Thom reported on his meeting with Gary Gillespie of the Development Office about fundraising and related matters as they pertain to the Association's funding challenge. Thom reported that Gary was very impressed

with the “classy” newsletter and the luncheon affairs. Consideration should be given to holding two, rather than three luncheon socials each year to trim costs and heighten the events’ importance. He also suggested the Association pursue the idea of matching fund sponsors for the lunches and perhaps the scholarship fund. To enhance participation, the personal approach is always best: telephone contact to remind about luncheons, encourage scholarship contributions. Use of a telephone tree had been used by the Association in the past, but broke down over time. Gary said we should keep the newsletter free, with perhaps ads or underwriting support, which the Council has discussed in the past. Jim reported he is working on an article for the spring newsletter regarding the sponsorship idea and newsletter underwriting.

As for support from the Foundation, Gary was doubtful about financial backing, except for perhaps a small underwriting amount for newsletter space, but he offered use of their telephone bank and other office resources. According to Thom, as the Association moves forward, alignment with the Development Office seemed more beneficial than associating primarily with the Provost’s Office. The Council generally agreed with this observation.

Nominating Committee

A slate of potential Council member candidates was presented, and Bruce and Jim asked for input and possible additions. Suggestions were made and the next step will be to personally contact those on the list. Thank you Bruce and Jim for your efforts.

Retirees Association Website

The Council was appreciative of John Englehardt’s work at putting the Association’s minutes and agendas on the website, and other improvements he has made. Although John was not able to attend today’s meeting, we thanked him for his efforts.

Last Minute Luncheon Details

Sally reported that only 25 have called to RSVP for the March 4 luncheon. Other arrangements are completed. More discussion ensued about luncheon menu options and costs for the future.

Transportation Issues for Spring Meeting

Jeanne reported that the University’s minibus would be available as transport from the University to Medford for the luncheon. A certified driver (Wayne?) would be needed. (Update, Wayne has a Road Scholar group on campus that day so will not be able to drive.) Jeanne also indicated that shuttling individuals from the nearby parking garage to the HEC would be helpful.

New Business

Luncheon Costs/Alternatives/Dates

Tentative dates for 2012 luncheons: Friday, Oct 21, 2012 and Friday, February 24, 2012. Still under discussion is whether to have three or two luncheon events next year.

As the hour was late, and after no further items presented themselves, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.

Upcoming Important Dates...mark your calendars

Council Meeting Dates (all Wednesdays): April 13, May 11, June 15

Luncheon Dates (both Fridays): March 4 and May 20

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Schumacher