

Southern Oregon University Retirees Association  
April 2, 2014, Council Meeting Minutes  
Approved May 28, 2014

1. Call to Order

Co-president Dave Hoffman called meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Present were members Hoffman, Fidler, Lorraine Skaff-Winger, Barbara Irvin, LaVelle Castle, Bonnie Rott, Herman Schmeling, Tom Pyle; past president Bev DeLaZerda and staff members Jeanne Stallman and Anya Neher.

2. Announcements

Tom announced that memorial service for Jerry Insley will be held Saturday, April 5 at 2 p.m. in the Rogue River Room in Stevenson Union and that the service for Ken Bartlett will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the Presbyterian Church in Ashland.

3. Minutes of Jan. 22, 2014 council meeting and general membership meeting of Feb. 28, 2014

Council minutes were corrected as follows:

Ralph's name was added to those of Barbara and Jeanne as having met to discuss GPA requirements for scholarships. Lorraine's name was replaced by Wayne's on list of council members whose terms end this spring. Ralph's name was added to Tom's as volunteer to serve on nominating committee. Corrected minutes approved by unanimous vote.

General membership meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

4. Reducing size of council

Ralph said he feels 15 members is too many as the number reflects nearly a fourth of the association's total membership, making recruiting new councilors difficult as well as getting quorums at council meetings. Bev suggested asking Jim Dean, Ron Bolstad and Ernie Ettlich for their recollections as to how number of 15 was chosen.

Ralph, Dave and Bev said they would get in touch with them. Jeanne pointed out that the 15 total came about after association membership increased with the eligibility of retired staff members. While the consensus of those present was to reduce the size (LaVelle suggested going to seven), it was decided to consider the issue at the May 28 council meeting when the five newly elected council members can offer their input.

Dave mentioned a movement to set up a statewide group of higher ed. retiree associations. Bev said there is a regional group of associations and that she attended one of its meetings in Portland.

5. Club, Association or Dissolution?

Dave recalled bringing up topic earlier in year, citing difficulty in getting both membership and leadership. Perceived differences between clubs and associations was addressed, with general feeling being that clubs of nature being discussed are more informal with (in Barbara's words) less structure, lack of strong purpose, goal and benefits. Bonnie said we need to discuss our purposes -- are we an organization, a club or do we dissolve. Ralph spoke against dissolving. Lorraine said an organization is what

we need to be. Bev referred to Retiree Association bylaws which list our purposes as: 1) providing a campus home as a point of contact for retirees; 2) promote social interaction among all retirees through events, council representation, a newsletter and website; 3) provide campus events to encourage continuing relationship between SOU and association membership and promote ongoing intellectual stimulation and activities; 4) provide opportunity for university to use talents of retired faculty and staff to the benefit of the university and retirees, including knowledgeable advocacy. Barbara questioned whether we are meeting those purposes. Bev said we need to keep trying to achieve our goals, saying we have done well in being financially sound, getting scholarship going, etc. Lorraine expressed feeling that all SOU retirees need to know this, but many don't. Bonnie suggested the newsletter as an available tool. Dave stressed importance of letting current university employees know of our existence. Bonnie moved (Castle second) that we remain an association. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 6. Pre-Luncheon Meeting with President

Ralph and Dave said they will be meeting with President Mary Cullinan prior to her appearance as featured speaker at our spring luncheon and membership meeting on May 16. Jeanne said the president would like to know what we want to hear. Dave would like the president to address how she sees SOU in the future. Ralph suggested employee morale as another topic. Lavelle and Bev expressed desire to have benefits for retired staff, such as parking permits and bookstore discounts, etc., be addressed by president Cullinan. Also suggested was seeking the president's approval of a Retiree Association bench to be placed on campus. The bench would be paid for by the association.

#### 7. Association Scholarship Requirements

Jeanne said 204 applicants have met the 3.0 grade point average (GPA) requirement for returning SOU students and 3.5 GPA for incoming freshmen. Dave noted that these are the same GPAs required to gain entrance to SOU> Jeanne asked if we want to raise the required GPAs as a means of cutting the "pool size." After some discussion, Barbara moved (Bonnie second) that the requirements be 3.5 for returning students and 3.75 for incoming freshmen. Continued discussion revolved around how much this would actually impact number of students eligible and whether we should direct our attention to returning students rather than new ones. Barbara withdrew her motion. Lorraine moved (Herman second) that we change the required GPA to 3.5 for returning students and that incoming freshmen would not be eligible for the scholarship. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### 8. Contacting New Retirees

Ralph said a letter to those employees retiring this year will soon go out from Anya's office. Names of retirees are provided by the payroll office (staff) and provost's office (faculty). The letter is signed by association president(s). It was suggested that a sentence be included in letter recommending that those with questions contact Dave or Ralph. Lorraine suggested the co-presidents contact the retirees before the letter goes out in order to give them early awareness of association.

#### 9. Anya's Resignation, Ramifications

Council members expressed their thanks and good wishes to Anya, who has resigned her position. She listed her responsibilities to association as including handling luncheons, attending council meetings, maintaining lists of members and total retirees, etc. Jeanne said there is no paid staff time to support the association and that Anya serves us as part of her responsibility to be on a committee. The lists, she said, need to be done by one person, whereas membership issues need to be handled by the council as are deposits, for example. Jeanne added that budgets and "financials" are prepared by her office. It was agreed that Dave, Ralph and Bev would meet with Anya to discuss her thoughts on the issue.

#### 10. ID Card Charge

The question of who -- the university or the retiree -- should pay for identification cards for retirees was addressed by Bev, who said the \$5 charge is supposed to come from the association's budget. She said she wasn't sure if that covered the entire cost.

#### 11. May 16 Luncheon and Meeting

Dave asked for discussion of arrangements for luncheon, to be held in the Stevenson Union dining hall, and the membership meeting, which follows in the SU Rogue River Room. It was agreed that attendees should go to the dining hall, get their food, pay and take their trays to the meeting room. More details will be published in the upcoming spring newsletter.

#### 12. Treasurer's Report

Lorraine reported that Jeanne had suggested we take special notice of the gifts figures, noting the \$891.10 total as of today. Bev said it will increase as year goes on, but that we need to make a push for donations to the scholarship fund.

#### 13. Sympathy Cards

Ralph said he has been sending cards. Consensus was that he, along with Dave, should continue to do so.

#### 14. Adjournment

Dave adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

The next council meeting will be held May 28 at 3:30 p.m. New council members will be introduced and retiring members will turn in their council books at the meeting.