

Southern Oregon University Retirees Association  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2011

After some social time with refreshments, President Sue Corp began the meeting at 3:22 pm in Room D of the Campbell Center. Present were Sue Corp, Lodi Belford, Bruce Moats, Ernie Ettlich, Dan Bulkley, Don Reynolds, Jerry Insley, Pat Wolfe, Bev De La Zerda, Don Graber, Wayne Schumacher, Pete Belcastro, Lavelle Castle, Barbara Irvin, Tom Pyle, Sally Klein.

Sue welcomed the incoming Council members and thanked the outgoing members for their service. Sue and Bev presented those finishing their term of service on the Council with a gift from the Bookstore. Council handbook binders were retrieved from the outgoing members, and new binders were distributed to the newest Council members. Ernie commented that the Association had come a long way in recent years and was headed in the right direction. Dan concurred. After being thanked for their years of service and contributions to the Association, the outgoing members were invited to leave if they wished. Then it was on with the meeting.

Last Meeting's Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on May 11 were approved without correction.

Old Business

Membership Benefits Issue - Jerry, Sue

Jerry and Sue updated the Council on the recent meeting with the President regarding the benefits issue. SOU administrators Mary Cullinan, Jim Klein, and Craig Morris were also present. Jerry said the meeting was constructive, but not as successful as the Association had hoped. Apparently, some of the University's policies are pretty rigidly set at this time, particularly faculty-based retirement benefits. Rather than focus on all of the various benefit options, Jerry and Sue thought it best to concentrate on three basic areas: ID card, library privileges, and parking.

There were some fundamental differences of opinion. For example, when the faculty and staff joined together into one retirement association, some believed that it would follow that the benefits would be the same for both faculty and staff. Mary said she recalled specifically that benefits of faculty would NOT apply to staff. Another: parking rules and fees are quite set in stone with little flexibility. It continues to be apparent that because a comprehensive list of Association benefits was never clearly established when staff joined the faculty in a retirement association, confusion remains.

It was suggested the Association formally inquire of the membership what benefits were most desired, perhaps utilizing the fall newsletter for this purpose, and based on that information, develop a list of benefits appropriate to Association members. Jerry said the promise was made to continue to work on this and to meet again as things develop.

Several issues need further clarification:

Does membership include spouses, widows, widowers?

Would those voted into membership from other institutions/ non SOU retirees, be fully equal members?

What exactly does the \$20 per year membership fee provide?

Some confusion about 5 years SOU affiliation requirement for staff; 10 years for faculty.

How would an Association ID card differ from, or be the same as, an SOU ID card?

One different approach to this whole issue might be to not even try to equalize the membership benefits of the faculty/staff/voted-in constituencies, but rather simply develop a limited list of benefits the \$20 annual fee would provide and make these our Association benefits, common to faculty, staff, and others invited to join.

A subcommittee of Sue, Jerry, Pat, and Tom agreed to continue work on this issue including drafting a survey for the fall newsletter.

Response from Membership Fee Request - Sally

Sally and Lodi updated the council on the Association's monetary receipts to date:

\$1060 in membership fees (47 households, 53 individuals)

\$994 for the Scholarship Fund

\$642 for the newsletter.

\$80 more received just recently.

Sally passed around an updated Council roster for all to review requesting updates on email addresses.

Discussion turned to what exactly the \$20 annual fee would cover. Lunches for guests? ID card expenses? Parking Permits? Miscellaneous expenses? Clearly this is an issue to be tackled in the near future.

Sally read a very nice thank you note from Jeanne written following the last luncheon.

New Business

Election of Officers

Sue presided over the election process/discussion to identify next year's officers.

Wayne agreed to continue as Secretary if the Council wished. Lodi agreed to continue as Treasurer if so voted. Bruce agreed to run for Vice President. Discussion turned to the president position which took a while as no candidate was immediately forthcoming. After a number of people declined, Sue very hesitantly indicated that Jim Dean, while not overly desirous of becoming President, had indicated to her his willingness to serve if no other candidate was identified. (Thank you Jim!!) Thus, the slate of officers for 2011-2012 was complete and a vote successfully held:

Jim Dean - President

Bruce Moats - Vice President

Wayne Schumacher - Secretary

Lodi Belford - Treasurer

Review May 20 Luncheon

The luncheon at the Higher Education Center proved to be a huge success. The food was good and the room was full. In fact, due to space limitations, future attendance if held at HEC may need to be limited. Jeanne's tour was a highlight, and there appeared to be no significant parking or transportation problems. Pat reported that she was among the three people who stayed on to hear the McNair student project lectures, which were excellent.

Challenges for 2011-2012 Year

Clearly, membership issues will be the focus next year.

Mark your calendars:

Council Meeting Dates (All Wednesdays @ 3:00 pm.)

Proposed: August 10, September 14, October 12, January 11, February 15, April 18, May 9, June 13.

Luncheon Dates:

Friday, October 21, 2011; Friday, February 24, 2012.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne Schumacher