

SOU Retirees Association Meeting, 9-11-13

Attendees: David Hoffman, Ralph Fidler, Ed Hungerford, Lorraine Skaff Winger, and Sally Klein

Meeting Notes: By David Hoffman and Ralph Fidler (co-chairs)

3:30 pm September 11, 2013

Since we had announced beforehand that there were no burning issues to be resolved at the council meeting, scheduled for September 11, and since a fair number of people were out of town, it came as no surprise that we did not achieve a quorum. However several items of interest were brought up by those in attendance that we believe will require council attention the next time we meet.

1. The issue regarding the number of times the organization's council will meet during the year: a proposal

a. **Ralph and David Hoffman (co-chairs)(out)** Those present have a proposal for a future council meeting: Unless there is some urgent business item that call for a special session, we propose that the council meet three times per year, on Wednesdays, We know that there may be times when decision-making is better served by face-to-face dialogue, but since taking the job as co-chairs, we as well as Sally Kline, have done reasonably well, via email without actually needing to meet with one another about two weeks prior to each up-coming luncheon.

b. In our brief tenure as cochairmen of the organization, we have found that the email provides an adequate device by which all members of our council can stay connected to one another, and can be reached by the chair, or coordinator, without calling for a formal meeting. Since our formal meetings can seldom be attended by every council member, we believe that in some ways, the use of email may provide an avenue by which more members can be involved in our decision-making.

c. This memo is a good example of what we are referring to. While we will make a formal decision about the number of times when the full council meets in October, between that time and now, members of the council may wish to carry on a dialogue regarding the meeting schedule, via the email. (We will see that all council members have one another's email address for this purpose. ***(Bear with us on this matter. Presently, not all members of the council do not use the same computer language.)***)

2. A new program coordinator should be in place soon—taking on the role about to be vacated by Sally Klein.

a. Jeanne Stallman is currently in the process of screening applicants and, hopefully, a person will be on job within the next couple weeks.

b. We plan to attend a meeting between the new coordinator and Sally, so that each of us comes away with an understanding of the role that the coordinator plays in service to our organization, as well as what is to be expected of the chairs of the counsel.

3. At our September meeting, we talked about the life-span of our organization and we have decided to make this the next issue for discussion at the October meeting of our upcoming our council meeting in October. We can provide you people with a glimpse of our thinking: Unless our organization gathers new membership from the pool of recent and future retirees, arithmetic tells us that the life-span of the organization is in question— slowly melting into an archaic "club."

4. Whose-its whose its? Current officers of our retirement group for 2013-14.

Co-chair Ralph Fidler (ralphfidler@gmail.com)

Co-chair David Hoffman hoffmansd@gmail.com

Treasurer Lorraine Skaff (Winger) lbfew@mind.net

Secretary Tom Pyle (amatom2@charter.net)

Newsletter

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5. In regard to our Luncheon Speakers:

Happily, Dennis Powers has agreed to be the speaker at our November 1 luncheon. Dennis tells us that he plans on involving attendees in his presentation. Looks very interesting.

A recent suggestion for speakers is to invite our two local state senators (Oregon Legislature) to discuss their positions on the issues of PERS and/or Oregon higher education, in general. The catch here is that it is unlikely that these two gentlemen could cram their comments into thirty minutes, which is the normal length of time turned over to the commentary of presenters. If we were to take that thirty minutes, then divide that figure time given for each man's presentation—it would come out to about fifteen minutes per senator, give or take an hour or two. Has anyone in our group tried to make a politician keep his commentary about the world, space, god, PERS and the Second Amendment under 15 minutes? If so, you deserve to have a Retirement Association luncheon devoted to a presentation on the secrets of your success. It is our understanding that President Cullinan will be presenting in the spring.

**FALL LUNCHEON IS ON NOVEMBER 1, 2013, BEGINNING AT 11:30 AM UNTIL 1:00 PM —
—ROGUE RIVER ROOM, STEVENSON UNION MAKE RESERVATIONS WITH SALLY
KLEIN (EMAIL PREFERRED)**

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Other possible activities of the association for the council's consideration:

Local TV news, the other evening, as well as the front page of the September 19 Medford Tribune, gave attention to the new SOU dormitory, located below the Boulevard. I am reasonably sure members of the council have driven by, in past months and observed it under construction. I notice that it cannot be referred to a single building. On the basis of the news' description of the new facility, I believe more than a few members of our Association would appreciate a guided tour of the lay-out. It appears to be truly unique to the state of Oregon's University system, and possibly beyond. The university is referring to it as a "community." I had falsely assumed that the facility is simply a large consolidated dorm that is being built to replace those dorms on campus that have

reached the over-dilapidated stage. It appears that my assumption has been considerably off-base. I believe the new dorm would be well worth a tour.

Using a tour of the new dorm as a model, I am wondering if there are other new or revised programs on campus that would be of interest and deserve the attention of various members of the Association? To me, a "tour" of our university could be more than a physical/visual walk around the campus, although some might find such a walk around the university grounds to be informative if it were conducted by a knowledgeable staff person who could tell interested members what are institutions objectives regarding current and future development of the university grounds. Is there a plan to give the university a certain "look?" Some members of our association may find an *academic* or *social/cultural* visit to the university of interest, depending on the topic or issue. Guides on such tours might be one or more current faculty members or students—sometimes both. I would not expect these tours to follow any strict schedule, nor would each attempt to be of interest to all members of the association. Some tours might attract the attendance of perhaps no more than five to ten members. They might meet in classrooms or simply gather around in a table in a dining hall or coffee shop. They would not be expected to be formal in nature. I am thinking in terms of "*Our*" university and "*Our*" students, because I suspect there is a goodly number of members of our association who feel that they have invested a good chunk of working life to this institution—contributing significantly to the current character and value of the institution. The council may wish to discuss the "tour" idea at some future meeting.

Dave Hoffman (Co-chair)