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SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, February 2, 2017

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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Minutes: SJSU ERFA Executive Board Monday, February 6, 2017. Duncan Hall 249

Members Present: Celia Bakke, Gene Bernardini, Peter Buzanski, Carol Christensen, Jill Cody, Elba Maldonado-Colon, Barbara Conry, Adnan Daoud, Abdel El-Shaieb, Nancie Fimbel, Dolores Esobar-Hamilton, Don Keeseey, Bill McCraw, Joan Merdinger, Wayne Savage, Carmen Sigler, Lonna Smith, Dennis Wilcox, and Marian Yoder.

1. **Call to order:** President Nancie Fimbel called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.
2. **The Minutes** of December 5 were approved by voice vote as amended by changing “Faculty Affairs” to the “Center for Faculty Development” in Item J: Faculty Award Committee.

3. President’s Remarks.

- Nancie reported that CASA has reassured her that it won’t need the ERFA office (Macquarrie Hall 438D) after spring semester. Any board member wishing to use the office can pick up a key from the dean’s office.
- Nancie, Carmen, and Dennis are scheduled to meet with the provost on Feb. 15 to discuss the re-establishment of a university reception at the end of the year for faculty who are retiring, perhaps at the president’s home or a facility on campus.
- Some faculty emeritus associations on other CSU campuses are making donations to feed hungry students, but Peter reported that SJSU already has programs and funding in place so the SJSU-ERFA probably should not consider any financial contribution or other action at this point.

4. Update on Events and Activities.

A. Holiday Party on Dec. 9. Lonna reported that the event went well and she has made notes about amount of food and refreshments consumed for planning next year’s event. Spartan Catering has suggested that perhaps the new Student Union would be a good venue, but the consensus of the board was that the library is preferred because it’s near parking and members are familiar with the location.

B. Spring Outing. Carmen reported that the spring excursion to the World War II Home Front: Rosie the Riveter Museum will be on Friday, March 31. Barbara has made reservations to attend a docent presentation at 10 a.m. where one or more of the original “Rosie’s” will talk about their experiences. Gene reported that he has reserved a bus at the cost of \$1,154 round-trip and, depending on the number that takes the bus, the cost per person will vary. The board, by hand vote, decided that \$35 per person would be the set price. The next newsletter to members at the end of the month will include a flyer and reservation form.

C. Spring Luncheon. Dolores reported that the room at the Villages has been reserved for Friday, May 19, and a podium/mic has been ordered for President Papazian's talk. The board discussed the inclusion of the 2017 Faculty Research Award recipients in the program and the consensus was that this would be a good opportunity to showcase a major SJSU-ERFA program to President Papazian. There was also consensus that the two award recipients should be instructed to keep their comments to only 2 to 5 minutes – enough to say “thank you” and give a short description of their project. Dolores will have menu suggestions for approval at the March or April meeting.

D. Fall Luncheon. Lonna announced that the fall luncheon will be held on October 27th at Michael's Shoreline. The program committee will suggest possible speakers at a future meeting.

5. Action Items.

Faculty Grant Awards for 2017. Joan reported that the committee (Joan, Ji-Mei, and Dennis) reviewed a total of 39 applications and selected two tenure-track professors, Nicole Dubus (School of Social Work) and A.J. Faas (anthropology) to receive this year's awards. The board approved the selection by unanimous vote. There was additional discussion about the committee's proposed wording of next year's RFP to state, “...travel related to research and creative activity.”

Dolores stated that this wording was too narrow and that giving a paper at a conference was a legitimate use of award funds because it advanced the reputation of the University. Lonna, Dennis, and Joan, however, commented that multiple applicants applied for travel funds to attend conferences, but it was difficult to differentiate one request from another in terms of their value or even find documentation of a paper being accepted. The collective wisdom of the Board decided on the statement, “The award, now in its fourth year, is intended to support research, creative activity, travel, and/or acquisition of equipment related to scholarly and creative endeavors.”

In addition, Dennis noted that the committee received 8 applications from engineering faculty and 4 from the sciences this year but the committee, being from the social sciences and humanities, had some difficulty in assessing the value of the proposed research/activity because, among other things, they were somewhat jargon-filled and difficult for a lay person to understand. He suggested that future review committees should include a board member with more familiarity with the science and engineering disciplines to better evaluate such proposals.

6. Reports

A. Treasurer. Abdel reported that the current balance was \$9,927.24 and that the expected balance by the end of the fiscal year (June) will be about \$10,600. In terms of donations/contributions to the faculty awards program, a total of \$20,870 (including \$5,000) from SJSU-ERFA has been raised since the start of the program three years ago. About \$7,000 was raised in December/January as a result of personal letters sent by Nancie to past donors and an article by Joan in the fall newsletter.

Abdel, by email, also distributed income and expenses for 2016. Total income was \$7,563.04. Major expenses in 2016 included \$2,246 for the holiday party, \$2,627 for the newsletter and directory, \$1,000 donation to MLK, and \$478 for coffee.

B. Membership. Wayne reported that there are now 290 members and is somewhat unchanged from previous reports.

C. Newsletter Editor. Gene reported that the newsletter will be distributed the third week of February and, if any board members have any announcements or stories, they should submit them ASAP. The flyer and reservation form for the spring excursion to visit Rosie the Riveter will be included.

D. Webmaster. Carol reported that the website was up-to-date. She distributed a list of about 70 member email addresses that are not on the group ERFA email list and asked board members to contact friends on the list and ask them to submit a request to join the Yahoo group. They can directly contact Carol (chriwolf@pacbell.net) or send a request directly to sjsu_erfa-subscribe@yahoo.com

E. Consolations. Jill sent consolations to the families of Lee Walton and Claudia Salewske. She also noted that Lauren Ankersmit, step-daughter of Jerry Kemp, sent a thank note of appreciation for acknowledging the passing of her father saying, "it's a comfort to know that Jerry is still remembered and respected by those in his profession."

F. Film group. Don and Marian reported that seven attended the film, "Hidden Figures," an excellent film about three African-American women who made a major contribution to NASA's space program.

G. Faculty Senate. Peter reported that President Papazian was continuing to do an excellent job in terms of communicating with the faculty about issues facing the campus. And that her January letter to the faculty was "fantastic." The faculty senate, after deliberating about making the chair of the senate a two-year term, decided to stay with a one-year appointment with the option for a chair to be elected to a second-year term. Dudley Morehead Hall has been renovated with air-conditioning, new floors, etc.

H. CSU-ERFA. Joan reported that CSU-ERFA has a list of 745 names of faculty who have retired, but the list is somewhat out-of-date because of deaths, etc. so SJSU-ERFA would have to cull the list for possible members. She also noted that the Center for Faculty Development was sponsoring a seminar for about 60 faculty thinking about retirement – and that list could be helpful in terms of recruiting new SJSU-ERFA members.

I. Archivist. Celia reported on the SJSU-ERFA archives that the Library is compiling, and noted that several board members expressed concern about the inclusion of membership directories in the archive. Although the Board had approved the inclusion of directories (in print form) in 2015, Lonna expressed the opinion that this would constitute an invasion of individual privacy because they could be used by outsiders to contact members for commercial or political

purposes. Due to time certain of ending the meeting at 11:30 a.m., this discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

7. New Business. None proposed.

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11: 30 a.m. The next meeting will be Monday, **March 6**, at 10 a.m., in Duncan Hall 249. Thanks to Adnan for the snacks.

Upcoming Refreshments:

March: Dolores E. Hamilton

April: Celia Bakke

May: Marian Yoder

Dlw: 2.19.17