

CSUN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 09, 2024

Approved June 07, 2024

VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCING

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** President Cynthia Rawitch initiated the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

2. **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE.** Pat Miller, Dan Blake, Sharon Klein, Patrick Nichelson, David Fox, Ron McIntyre, Karen Robinette, Carhy Jeppson, Diane Schwartz, Michael Barrett, Robert Kiddoo, Tim Fox, Cynthia Rawitch
EXCUSED. Ann Perkins, Cynthia Desrochers

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 09 MEETING.** Unanimous, with one change-of-name spelling.

4. **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS.**
 1. Program Chair Pat Miller reported that at this session there will be extensive discussions about upcoming events.

 2. Graduate Students Awards Committee Chair Tim Fox reported that the Committee is moving forward despite many scheduling challenges apropos scheduling coordination with other CSUN campus organizations. As of April 08, there were fifteen applications. A strong majority of the applicants were from Biology and other sciences. There will be four Awards. He also reported that the Awards Brunch is scheduled to be held on May 04. Tim asked Diane Schwartz to join the Awards Committee. Diane agreed.

 3. Cathy Jeppson remarked that the recent event at Soraya and the dinner with it were wonderful. Twenty-Eight ARF members attended, and a lovely time was had by all. Several board members cited the Soraya celebration as a model for future campus events that ARF will want to support. Plus, the event raised 2.4 million dollars!

OLD BUSINESS

1. President Cynthia Rawitch reported that there are now two keys for Santa Susana, Room 110, and the Sign for the ARF office is installed.
2. She also noted that the “Cleanup Brigade” for the old-new office is Sharon Klein, Ron McIntyre, Melanie Mamakos (ERFSA Office Manager), Michael Barrett and Tim Fox.
3. Regarding the ongoing discussions about faculty “perks,” there will be a Zoom meeting among relevant administrators and ARF representatives concerning the perquisites for retired full-time faculty who are not “emeriti.” The concerns include email. Once again, board members praised Cynthia for taking on such issues for non-emeriti retirees.
4. President Rawitch noted that the May 10 board meeting will be conducted via Zoom in the morning.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Dan Blake had emailed his full written report to the board members prior to this meeting.

Some highlights of the Treasurer’s discussion: board member Cathy Jeppson expressed her approval and pleasure with the overall information on income. She expressed that ARF is doing really well and she was happy about the information on ARF meals, for instance, that it costs less to have meetings with lunch, a virtual “free lunch.” Dan noted also that he has not yet received responses regarding his overall questions at the previous meeting concerning events, their locations, costs, et cetera. Pat Miller added that the timing and locations for future events require more discussion, and that it is difficult to nail down the Soraya schedule for the coming year in a way that is timely for planning. There followed a lengthy discussion about lunches, Soraya productions, and times of day for gatherings.

2. Program Chair’s Report

Program Chair Pat Miller began by informing the members that the following day’s event, a visit to the Huntington Botanical Gardens, Library and Museums in San Marino is on schedule. Thirty-three ARF members and friends are expected to attend, many of them via the bus that Pat had arranged with the office of L.A. Councilmember John Lee’s office.

Pat asked members to carefully think about the 2024-2025 schedule that she had sent out and to please respond with any questions.

She also urged that ARF take every measure to achieve more official organizational status with CSUN. Planning events and programs is difficult when not every administrative department recognizes ARF as an official wing of CSUN. Meanwhile, ARF’s work with and at The Orchard

compound is safe. But we need official and universally recognized Affiliation with CSUN. Discussion ensued. Pat was several times saluted for her fine work as Program Chair.

3. Membership Chair's Report

Chair Tim Fox happily reported that membership numbers are "Stable." He regularly in writing informs the members of current numbers.

4. Remembrance Chair's Report

Chair Ron McIntyre announced that, happily, there have been no losses of faculty since his last report.

5. **"ARF NOTES."** The deadline for new reports/submissions is April 12.

6. Historian's Report.

ARF Historian Karen Robinette announced that she has obtained from the CSUN Library several boxes of material relevant to the history of ARF.

7. ERFSA

Tim Fox reported that the next statewide ERFSA meeting will be conducted via ZOOM on April 24th.

8. CSUN FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Board Member Cynthia Desrochers submitted a written report:

"This was a very informative 2 ½ hour Zoom meeting of 80 individuals, 75% of whom displayed their most flattering headshot versus a live image, with Michael Neubauer still at the Senate helm some 20 years after I last attended. Some random points that may be of interest to our retired body.

The campus appears to be in excellent shape, even without us! Programs abound to promote student success; federal money is coming in (out of six grants throughout the CSU, two went to CSUN); first-time freshman enrollment is up 11%; and we are still wordsmithing Section 600.

Some human-interest tidbits: the surprise north Valley storm of March 7, flooded the Faculty Senate office, and they have moved to temporary quarters; this year marks 50 years since VP William Watkins was the CSUN ASB president; and Jeff Wiegley (Computer Science) is the incoming Faculty Senate president.

Two programs going into effect fall 2024 caught my attention: BUG and CSUN Ready.

In the Blended Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Program (BUG), some programs will allow students to double count a minimum of 9 and maximum of 12 units toward their undergraduate and graduate degrees (master's only). CSUN Ready offers affordable course materials for undergraduates, whereby students acquire all materials two weeks prior to class, are charged a flat rate of \$17.50 per credit unit and must return materials at the end of the term. Studies have shown that this program improves grades and retention and reduces the equity gap. Students can opt out of this program, should they prefer to purchase their own material, but they must opt out of course materials for all of their courses. Questions were raised about how this affects classes where a faculty member has redesigned the course in order to provide zero-cost materials. **Cynthia Desrochers, substituting for Cynthia Rawitch** “

9. BOARD NOMINATION

Cathy Jeppson announced that almost all the positions for nomination have been filled.

2024/2025 Proposed ARF Executive Board Election Slate. (as of 1/16/24)

Nominating Committee – Cynthia Rawitch, Diane Schwartz, Ron McIntyre, Michael Barrett, Catherine Jeppson,

President Diane Schwartz (Elected)
Vice-Pres/President-elect Cynthia Rawitch (Nominate)
Immediate Past President Cynthia Rawitch (Elected)
Secretary Patrick Nichelson (Nominate)
Treasurer Cathy Jeppson (Nominate)
Program Chair Patricia Miller (Nominate)
Program Co-Chair-elect (Nominate)
ARF Notes Editor Ann Perkins (Nominate)
Membership Chair Tim Fox (Nominate)
Historian Dan Blake (Nominate)
Webmaster Eugene Turner (Nominate)
Member-at-Large 2 Year Steven Stepanek (Nominate)
Member-at-Large 2 Year Robert Kiddoo (Nominate)
Member-at-Large 2 Year David Fox (Nominate)
Member-at-Large 1 Year Michael Barrett (Elected)
Member-at-Large 1 Year Cynthia Desrochers (Elected)
Member-at-Large 1 Year Sharon Klein (Elected)

THE ZOOM CONDUCTED BOARD MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:18 PM

(THE NEXT ARF BOARD MEETING WILL BE VIA ZOOM ON FRIDAY, JUNE 07 AT 10:00 A.M.)

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY PATRICK NICHELSON.

Patrick thanks Diane Schwartz for informational and editorial help