

FINAL

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association Board of Directors

August 10, 2023

Nebraska East Union

Minutes submitted by Kim Hachiya, association secretary, Sept. 14, 2023, and approved as submitted Sept. 14, 2023

Attendance: Pat Crews, Larry Dlugosh, Kim Hachiya, Alice Henneman, Gary Heusel, Doug Jose, Rita Kean, Linda Major, Tom McFarland, Nancy Mitchell, Roshan Pajnigar, Alfred Stark, Don Weeks, Jane Zatechka

**Memory Moments:** (Since April 13, 2023)

**Ezekiel Bahar**, Engineering

**John Brumbaugh**, School of Biological Sciences

**Steve Danielson**, Entomology

**John W. Doran**, Agronomy and Horticulture

**Marilyn Fagerstrom**, Physical Education

**Irma Gillespie**, College of Arts and Sciences

**Pam Hanson**, Accounting

**Ron Hull**, Nebraska Public Media

**Izetta Jones**, Ruth Staples Child Development Laboratory

**Ann Louise Keller**, University Health Center

**Margaret Case "Ann" Landfield**, wife of Dr. Alvin Warner Landfield, Psychology

**Raymond Marquardt**, Agribusiness

**Kay Frances Shoemake Maxwell**, wife of Billy Maxwell, Husker Athletics

**Darlene Richards**, Purchasing Department

**Douglas Ross**, Art

**Jean Earl Schultz**, Agronomy

**Jean Riley-Shultz**, School of Accountancy

**June Splichal**, Chemistry

**Patrick Wells**, School of Pharmacy

**John Wunder**, History

**Albert William Zechmann**, Mathematics

Additions made on Aug. 10:

**Charles Messenger**, NU State Museum

**Dan Neumeister**, Food Processing Center

Linda opened the meeting but left to attend to a family emergency. Larry Dlugosh ran the meeting in her absence.

**Approval of minutes** for the April board and membership meetings

Minutes of the April meetings were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Earl Hawkey

Submitted electronically

Pat wondered how much was donated to the ERA scholarship in honor of Ronnie Green. We didn't know and we will revisit.

## **Committee/Activities Report**

**Awards:** Pat Crews No report

**Benefits:** Roshan Pajngar: reported that she has asked new member Debbie Hendricks to join her; they will meet with the HR and CA folks to see what we might be missing. They also want to revisit language to be more inclusive. Question: Is there an emeriti status for staff? Answer: yes but it's hard to get and would be conferred by the SVCAA after being nominated by a supervisor. Larry said that he learned at the B1G meeting that associations that have merged fac/staff associations want to be welcoming to both faculty and staff and be aware of the organizations' existence. Don Weeks said he has been pleased by the number of staff members who have joined. HR's new data base and mailings have helped with outreach.

**Bylaws/Policies:** Julie Johnson and Jim Griesen no report

**Campus Engagement:** Rita Kean sent info to the general membership from Andrew Brown about volunteer opportunities; he is making one-time opportunities more available. People are interested in short-term or one-time opportunities.

**Digital Communications:** Alfred Stark asked about whether we'd gotten feedback on recording meetings. Typically we get about 3 dozen looks but others have wider looks (for example 100+ for the presentation by NU President Ted Carter). Do we need to have live streaming with the ability to post questions and on which platforms? Facebook Live? Zoom Live? YouTube Live? Al said there hasn't been much interaction during the live streams. Al said recording capability is complicated depending on where the meeting is held. Larry said he thinks the taping/streaming is more important than allowing the interactivity of questions. We will revisit the issue.

**Website:** Alfred Stark, Alice Henneman, Nancy Mitchell and Linda Major revamped the website over the summer. The new name is Emeriti-retirees.unl.edu. Al said they rebuilt it to optimize for viewing from phones and tablets vs. monitors. Al is still recruiting people to help with website, etc. Larry said he thinks the website is a critical component especially for member engagement. Nancy said she likes the new composite UNL calendar that has links for folks to find info on things like museum, athletics, etc. They also updated relationships with affiliates like OLLI.

**Educational Activities/OLLI/Tours:** Nancy Mitchell reported that OLLI is offering a \$10 discount on membership to our members. She said that ERA is jointly sponsoring with OLLI its October seminar on "Disinformation and Conspiracy Theories." And we are doing a "pop-up" social event session Sept. 28, 4-6 p.m. at Whispering Winds Winery, to help promote this event. She said talks are ongoing with OLLI leadership as collaboration is becoming more important to both organizations and we don't wish to duplicate or step on each other's toes. The board approved a motion to raise the ceiling to \$500 on expenditures that can be undertaken without prior board approval. We also agreed to pay for a couple of charcuterie boards for the pop-up social and coffee and donuts for the coffee social at Wilderness Ridge.

We confirmed there is a tour of the Carolyn Pope Edwards building following the membership luncheon there on Oct. 17.

It was noted that if OLLI is not using its parking in the lot north of the Nebraska East Union, we can use it for our meetings. We need to check to see if there's a fee.

**Membership:** Donald Weeks things are going smoothly. We have a new format for membership

rolls. With minimal efforts to recruit, we gain a couple of new members a month who are not new retirees.

**Oral History:** Doug Jose no report

**Publications:** Alice Henneman reported on the newsletter survey. There were 142 respondents. Among the findings: Almost everyone read it either as an attachment or on their screen. People skim vs. thoroughly read it start to finish. The new format will look more like a website rather than a printed document; she is adding more bullet points, subheads, pull quotes, images. Analytics showed that about 1/3 of the readers are using Apple rather than PC and that means that folks who may be asked to work on the newsletter in the future will have no access to MS Publisher, the current publishing application, so she is switched to creating the document in MS Word, which eases editing and reviews. The new calendar with clickable links is helpful. We have integrated a list of university calendars. People are interested in seeing people and events (photos, etc.), insider/behind the scenes events. People offering book recommendations proved popular. A travel story was added to the latest edition.

Larry noted that the Executive Committee is thinking about doing a general membership survey to figure out what retirees want, how we keep them engaged, how often do they want to be involved? We are going to try to look at general membership to figure out what our members want. We will revisit this idea.

**Scholarships:** Earl Hawkey no report

**Social Events:** Jane Zatechka and Jim Griesen Jane reported there's a fall coffee set up at Wilderness Ridge on Sept. 26 (9:30 a.m.) We will provide coffee and donuts.

### **Old Business/Announcements**

- Program Committee Roles and Responsibilities: Larry reported that he has set up a program committee that has met and will be helping on ---
  - Identifying and selecting program speakers
  - Assisting Vice President with meeting logistics
  - Greeting new members at their first meeting. We chatted about the importance of welcoming new members and possibly identifying new members and first timers with a sticker or other insignia on name tags.
- Meeting with new and returning administrators: because Linda was absent, we did not discuss this. But we hope to do this by
  - Combine with Fall Coffee on Campus
  - Collaborate with Faculty Affairs

### **New Business**

- Partnership with OLLI: Nancy and Linda (discussed earlier in the meeting)
- Communicating with members: Don asked how are we notifying people about things? Do we want to add texting capabilities? We no longer communicate with people via mail. We would need to vote add that capability. Al suggested we look at our options before voting on this. We approved a motion to investigate options for better communications.
- Big Ten Retirees Conference update: Larry reported that the B1G meeting was great. Rutgers did not show. USC and UCLA, who will join the B1G in 2024, both said they want to be members of the retirees association. Not sure about UWashingtton and Oregon yet. Highest priority among

everyone was the engagement of members and several shared strategies for engagement. Michigan has a committee that calls new members. Finances were an issue in terms of budget. Expenses ranged between \$8K to \$60K year. The bigger universities have funding with their universities, MOUs with their administration (Iowa and Purdue have complicated MOUs. Wisconsin has an interesting situation because the U provides a part-time executive director). Next year's meeting is at Ohio State. Don really likes the idea of calling new members. Would people be willing to call new members? Maybe text or email ahead to let them know. Initial contact with new members is critical. Don said that one of the best events to invite new members is the Wilderness Ridge Coffee meeting.

- Meeting with Chancellor Bennett TBA We hope this is a helpful meeting for him and we look forward to meeting with him.
- Meeting with President Carter was canceled at his request. (We later learned that two days before he was to meet with us, he accepted the position of President at The Ohio State University.)

Larry said he thinks the importance of this group to the university is under valued. We need to let them know we are willing to help, but also that we need help. We may come up with ideas for an ask.

#### **ERA Board of Directors 2023 Fall Meeting Schedule:**

Thursday, August 10, 1:30 pm, location TBA

*Thursday, August 24, 1:30 pm, Varner Hall - Meeting with President Ted Carter - **Canceled***

Thursday, September 14, 1:30 pm, location TBA

Thursday, October 12, 1:30 pm, location TBA

Thursday, November 9, 1:30 pm, location TBA

*Thursday, December 14, 11:30 am, location TBA - strategic planning meeting*

#### **2023 Membership Fall Meeting Dates and Speakers: Larry**

**Thursday, September 21** - location: Nebraska East Union

**George Ayoub, Adjunct Professor at Hastings College**

Topic: **Conspiracy Theories and Misinformation**

**Tuesday, October 17** - location: Carolyn Pope-Edwards Hall

**Sherri Jones, Dean of College of Education & Human Sciences**

Topic: **The Future of Public Education**

**Thursday, November 16** - location: Nebraska East Union

**Julia Torquati, Professor Child, Youth & Family Studies**

Topic: **Early Childhood Development**

**Tuesday, December 12** - location: Cornhusker Marriott Hotel

**Meet Chancellor Rodney Bennett**

#### **2023 ERA Executive Committee Fall Meeting Dates**

Thursday, December 1, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm, Location TBA

