

Minutes Submitted by Kim Hachiya, association secretary
Approved by the Board of Directors, Feb. 16, 2023
Emeriti and Retirees Association Meeting
January 19, 2023
Via Zoom

Due to predicted inclement weather, this meeting was convened via Zoom. About 55 members checked on the call.

President Linda Major called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

She recognized the following university community members who have died since our last meeting, Dec.

Ron Burke, Dining Services
Curt Cheney, spouse of Veva Cheney, Services for Students with Disabilities
James Ford, English
Jan Gradwohl, widow of John Gradwohl, College of Law
Amy Metzger, Information Services
Mary Schkade, widow of Tony Schkade, University Registrar's Office
Robert Sittig, Political Science
Roscoe Shields, NETV

Announcements:

Earl Hawkey gave a brief Treasurer's Report indicating we are solvent and a reminder about dues.

Kim Hachiya reported that Glow Big Red is Feb 15-16. We are again participating to fundraise for the Emeriti and Retirees Association scholarship. Last year, about 50 donors gave nearly \$3000 to the scholarship, which was 10 percent of our goal toward endowing the scholarship. We would love to break that record this year. We have an anonymous donor who will give \$250 if we get 25 individual donations. We will be sending more information about Glow Big Red in the newsletter in Early February and also send an email blast with links that allow you to donate directly. The Foundation would love to attract at least 5,000 donors to this year's Glow Big Red.

Rita Kean thanked everyone who donated coats for Big Red Resilience. She reported on OLLI's spring terms and talked about ERA members can be engaged with students via Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement office. She reported that the board met with Andrew Brown, Assistant Director for Community Engagement. There will be updates on OLLI and on student engagement in the February newsletter.

Don Weeks, membership chair, thanked those who have renewed for this year. Re-ups are much appreciated. We are in a new member recruitment drive. If you know of people who are retirees or emeriti, please ask them to join. ?s direct to Don. Don and Kim will attend the pre-retirees seminar on Feb. 23 and hope to recruit potential new members.

Doug Jose reported on the revived Oral History Project in which we will interview retired emerite and retirees to capture history, track changes, we have 36 or 37 already completed and on the ERA website. He recently did one with Martin Massengale. Doug hopes to do a half dozen or so interviews this year. Let Doug know of ideas for potential guests.

Linda reported the outcomes of the Board Retreat and ERA's priorities for the upcoming year. She noted they align with those identified by our B1G colleagues.

- Increase the number of UNL emeriti and newly retired employees who join the ERA.
- Increase member satisfaction with UNL ERA membership.
- Increase the principle in the ERA-endowed scholarship fund with the goal of offering at least one more need-based scholarship.

As part of the discussion, we identified several strategies for each priority to help meet our goals. I want to offer a personal note of gratitude to this year's officers and board members for their service and dedication to the organization.

The spring newsletter will be emailed to members during the second week in February. Thanks to Alice, Henneman Charlyne Berens, Doug Jose, and others who contributed articles, updates, and items of interest. Please note that we are recruiting new members for our various committees including the program committee, publications committee, and digital communications. A description of each committee is posted on the ERA website. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact me by email.

Our next general membership meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 24 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Please note that this is a departure from our typical schedule. Our featured speaker is Mike Boehm, vice chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and vice president for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska. He will be talking about the USDA Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture project.

Larry Dlugosh introduced Laurie Bellows, vice chancellor for student affairs; Ryan Lahne, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs; and Kelli King, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs.

Laurie Bellows:

Student Affairs is one of the larger administrative divisions at UNL with some 700 employees engaged in 30 plus programs. The role is to support and enhance university's educational mission. Laurie said that a key value is to enhance "Belonging." There is a strong link between academic success and campus connections. Students with strong connections experience fewer mental health problems, have higher GPAs, tend to be more focused on class attendance, and tend to graduate on time.

Student Affairs works to make college a transformative experiences for students

Collaborations

Diversity and inclusion/belonging and mattering

Good stewards of resources

Diversity-Equity-Inclusion is the foundation

Majority of efforts supported by student fees and housing revenues; less than 1% of SA budget is state aid; SA is working to solidify ties with NU Foundation to help decrease cost of attendance for students

Ryan Lahne: His key words are Learn, Include, Lead, Engage

23,800 students. 19000 are UG. Decrease in enrollment is due to covid, decrease in International and a more rapid rate of graduation. This year we have students from 91 of 93 counties (none from Loup and Arthur). Students from all 50 states. Tremendous global footprint, largest from Asia. Students who live on campus are more engaged and retention is higher. \$12,428 annual cost to live on campus. Importance of nearly 500 Registered Student Organizations and the important of students “finding your crew” and your sense of belonging. Many RSOs are tied to their academic majors.

Student affairs includes Campus Recreation; Greek Life,;Slice: student leadership, Involvement and community engagement; Husker GROW student employment (helps students connect a student job with future careers); Learning Communities; a program that connects children of UNL students with mentors; Herbie’s Market: students receive free room and board in exchange for volunteering to run the markets; Cocurricular experiences provide academic success and individual growth

Kelli King talked about support for student health and well being, which she identified as UNL’s No. 1 priority. Like national trends we are seeing depression and generalized anxiety among our students. In 2021-22, we had about 11,000 student appointments in Counseling and Psychological Services and saw a large increase in use at Center for Students with Disabilities

Students have different support needs than they did in the past

Belonging and Mattering

Working to reduce stigma in asking for help and helping students ask for help

Substance abuse recovery community

Suicide prevention

Medical withdrawal and re-enrollment process

Conduct and standards: accountability, restitution, apologies, future avoidance.

Try to work upstream before challenges become crises

Safe and respected

Question and Answer period

Q. How are students with problems identified?

A. Faculty or staff can send a report; social media, website, walk ins to the office.

Q. What are some student research opportunities?

A. UCARE is within Academic Affairs; also in TRIO

Q. How is the recent and continuing construction of student apartments affected Housing?

A: Laurie said it has impacted our returning students. Definitely impacted upper class students living off campus. Doing a campaign to tell students that those who live on have better chances of graduating on time, higher GPA, etc. Ryan: students don’t factor in full costs of living off – food, parking, internet, etc.

Q. How is Student Affairs helping students reach experiential education requirements?

A. While it's mostly through Academic Affairs, helping students connect via civic engagement experiences, those might be validated through a faculty member for credit. Co-curricular transcript is under development (kind of emulating a program at Michigan State).

Q How to meet with Downtown Services?

A. It would take staff, funding. We do want to find ways to bring services out to students. We focus on campus. But especially want to bring mental health to the colleges, dining services to west side of campus food desert (maybe a pantry?)

Q. Collaborations with faculty?

A. Faculty serve as RSO advisers, counseling services, Greek Affairs advisers. OASIS is now moved into Office of Diversity and Inclusion, still in the Gaughan Center; collaboration with TRIO, etc. First Gens with Nebraska Promise.

Q: Staff Senate Council:?

A. There are about 8 from Student Affairs on the council. It's part of the N2025 on adding more voices to the campus conversation. Laurie: said SA has taken big steps to help develop our staff. Student Affairs Leadership program. Professional development for 14 mid-level staff members.

Staffsenate.unl.edu

Linda thanked the team and noted we will be making an honorarium to the scholarship fund.

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