

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DRAFT Minutes
Monday, February 3, 2025, 10 am
Zoom

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler	x	Richard Atkinson	x
Vice President, Deanna Hanson	x	Carol Barake	x
Secretary, Susan Brackenhoff	x	Darryl Freeman (on leave)	
Controller, Dave Ferguson	x	Janet Heath	x
Past President, Ken Cross	x	Jackie Lamb	x
		Joel Leong	

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
Communications & Marketing Richard Atkinson	x	Program Peter Mundy, Jackie Lamb	x
Finance & Administration Dave Ferguson	x	Resource Development Mike Pidd	x
Forum (vacant, Deborah interim)	x	Scholarship Co-Chair Laurye Brownfield	
Forum Co-Chair Janet Heath	x	Scholarship Co-Chair Sue McGinty	x
Membership Deanna Hanson	x	Tech Co-Chair Sarah Ryan-Roberts	x
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	x	Tech Co-Chair Tom Nelson	
		Volunteer Services Carol Barake	x

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS, Dr. Marya Endriga, Interim Dean	x	Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Weekly Update/Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux, Carolyn Monson		Website Jennifer Kerr	
Recorder Jim Hodges		Office Manager Amber Korb	x
Assistant Controller Anne Putt	x	Board Liaison: Diana Gin	
Guest: Susan Wheeler		Guest: Marian Sheppard	x
Guest: Kevin Collins		Guest: Sue McGinty	X

Guest: Bob Silva	x	Guest: Ralph Paladino	x
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- **Call to Order:** President Seiler opened the meeting at 10:00 am on zoom.
- **Approval of January 6, 2025 minutes:** Jackie moved to approve; Mike seconded. Passed with no opposition.
- **President's Welcome:** This is the first day of spring semester. The Renaissance Society has become a "Bastion of Stability" in today's climate. Joel Leong is attending the Big History class.
- **Reports:**
- **Secretary:** Susan Brackenhoff --RS member Gerry Camp died January 23, 2025. He was scheduled to teach "The Shakespeare You Don't Know" this semester. Loretta Burdeaux has arranged to have the zoom class on February 13 as a "Salute to Gerry Camp" program playing his favorite songs and artists. Condolences have been sent to his daughter Amy Camp. Betty Staley passed away on Jan 4, 2025. She was a Waldorf teacher for over fifty years. As one of the founders of Rudolf Steiner College, she directed the Waldorf High School Teacher Education Program and the Public School Institute and was significant in bringing Waldorf education into public schools. It was difficult to find address for sympathy card.
- **Controller:** Dave Ferguson, Anne Putt - Our finances are doing very well. The \$17,000 transfer from the Scholarship Fund to the Endowment Fund and the transfer from the Nelsen Fund to the Endowment Fund has not happened yet. The office lease agreement was made for a 2-year extension. The first-year rent increase will be \$100 a month and the following year will be an additional \$100 per month raise.
- **Office Manager:** Amber Korb reported that spring registration has opened. Thanks to the staff for helping during this busy time. The Help Desk will be up and running when classes start.
- **Sac State Liaison:** Dr. Marya Endriga, Interim Dean of the College of SSIS congratulated RS for another term.
 - Sac State's enrollments are strong with 35,600 students, up 3%. Comparatively, Sonoma State has large population cuts. Some campuses have as much as a 25% reduction in enrollment. President Wood has announced the need for a large budget cut of \$43 million. There are no real answers to a large amount of uncertainty. Administration is reeling from Executive orders and understanding what and how it impacts us. Many grants and contracts have been allowed to continue. Faculty has had response training on reactions if immigration forces come on campus. Faculty are told to cooperate but are not compelled to give information. Immigration issues are not within the Campus PD purview. Immigration resources are listed on website if we are approached by immigrant services on campus. Equity and Affinity Centers are safe spaces for students from historically marginalized backgrounds and identities. When asked how people like us might be of comfort to Sac State students, Dr. Endriga suggested stopping by an affinity center and offer one on one support. Students could benefit from having someone to listen or be a friendly face. See the yellow button "Immigration Related Information & Resources" on the Sac State website.
- **Decisions and Discussion**
 - a. **New Scholarship Committee Co-Chair** will be Sue McGinty. Laurie will be very pleased to have a seasoned educator join the team.
- **Nominations-** Susan reported the nominating committee has been recruiting and organizing the election process for new officers and 3 MALs. There are excellent, highly qualified candidates who will be interviewed on February 12. The search for a Vice President continues. The new slate is scheduled go to the Executive Committee on March 25, on to the Board on April 7 for approval, then membership ratification on May 2.
- **Member Scholarships-** Deanna has revised the application for member scholarships. Applicants must have evidence of need and provide their contact information. The form will be available on our website.
- **Orientation & Open House** had good attendance. A special thank you was given to Sarah 's tech group that covered for Eric Levinson who was ill. Carol gathered great volunteers and wants to recognize them in The Recorder. Next year the marketing for O &OH needs to be much earlier in order to attract a larger attendance.

- **MLK Jr. March** on January 20 included participation by Deborah Seiler, Sue McGinty, Velma Parker, Joel Leong, and Greg Hess. Renaissance had a full table at the MLK Jr. Gala on January 25. Attending were Deborah Seiler, Jim Hodges, Deanna Hanson, Ken Cross, Dave Ferguson, Allan Keown, Sue McGinty, Susan Wheeler, Ruth McElhinney, and Susan Brackenhoff.
- **Help Desk Coverage** - Volunteers and staff will be covering the Help Desk when classes begin.
- **Tech Host alternatives** – The need for additional tech hosts prompted a discussion about student interns doing the work. Marian Kile has been managing the tech host assignments but she will be stepping down. Kevin Collins has agreed to take over. Jackie and Sue McGinty talked about contacting professors to give credit assignments for community service in exchange for being a tech host. Since Sac State tracks community service, this might be a win-win. We would need to go to the Department Chair first who would put out the message out to faculty. Senior Tech Pals, a volunteer organization, may also be a resource.
- **Partnerships with theater and ballet** – Deanna’s outreach to theater venues is creating many new opportunities. The partnership with Capital Stage will give us a discount on ticket prices in exchange for announcements in the Weekly Update. The Sacramento Ballet wants to share publicity about each other’s programs and give discounts for the ballet including the upcoming Romeo and Juliet. B Street Theater will do same. Deanna and Susan will visit Harris Center to encourage a cross promotion.
- **SMUD** - Deanna reported a very good meeting with SMUD that may lead to an opportunity to reach their retirees. The SMUD employee association may be willing provide RS information to their employees.
- **Written Committee Reports -- As submitted.**
Statement of No Report: Communications & Marketing
- **Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs**
 - Forum** –Forum Committee met on January 21 to review responsibilities for the Spring 2025 lineup. The committee member who suggested each speaker was asked to contact them to confirm their date, parking information, directions, and technology needs. Mariposa Hall 1000 will be the site of the Forum presentations.

Joy Skalbeck and Carol Purin have been working on committee procedures. Work has begun on Fall 2025 lineup.

b. Membership – Deanna announced the new member dinner will be at Old Spaghetti Factory (1625-Watt Avenue) on Friday, February 21 at 5:00. Deanna and Allan Keown are taking reservations. There will be separate checks. Most tabling events have not proved to be fruitful. Outward Magazine will run an RS article at the end of February. All welcomed Susan Wheeler who agreed to be co-chair of the Membership Committee.

c. Program – Peter Mundy/Jackie Lamb reported a good meeting with discussion about evaluations, waitlist issues, tech host issues and more. Peter submitted a report listing organizational issues that should be addressed. Topics for next meeting will be subcommittees and recruiting new program presenters. Sarah would like to help work on the evaluations project adding that Zoom has an evaluation tool could be easily used.

d. Resource Development – After much work, Mike has finally been able to order logo tumblers and polo shirts. There has been \$925 collected which offsets the cost. Mike has a hands-on working relationship with vendor.

e. Scholarship – Carol gave the report in Lauyre’s absence. A big welcome was extended to Sue McGinty for co-chairing this committee. Sac State has asked to have a representative on our Scholarship Committee. This request is welcomed because it may lead to better communications. Last year’s recipients have been contacted to explain how the RS scholarship affected them this year. There are more than enough applications this spring. Scoring of the applications will be done on March 20-28. Students will need to sign a consent form to use their picture. We are exploring a bigger venue for annual meeting so recipients and families can enjoy the social gathering after the meeting.

f. Technology – Sarah/Tom referred to her written report where numerous trainings are listed. Before

the registration could go live, it was a huge project to rebuild the registration system. In order to make this happen, our developer Steve Grondin had to create a separate registration page for each separate event listing in our catalog. This was a major redesign on the back end of our current system. The additional hours will put us over our allotted hours for our contract. One new change was to select a preference of zoom or in person attendance.

g. Volunteer Services – Carol reported there are 90 students in the Spring Gerontology classes. Instructor Jenny Stevenson needs 90 mentors. She needs a few more mentors and will double up on mentors. Contact Carol if anyone wants to volunteer. Mentor Orientation is at 1:00 pm today. Several attended the ASI Food Pantry meeting on January 15 to discuss RS donations. Ryan explained on how donations flow into the Food Pantry and the difficulty of separating out our donations. We continue to request a rough estimate for announcing at Orientation, the Annual Meeting, and require an accurate number for Annual Report. There is no need for monthly reports. Carol and Deborah count the first Friday brown envelopes collections. The usher volunteer links are not currently up and running. The demand for ushers needs to be determined with the Theater Department.

i. Communications and Marketing –Rick needs volunteer help from a graphic design person to help design a new brochure to replace our current rack cards. Also needed is a replacement for Jim Hodges who has done an outstanding job in publishing *The Recorder* newsletter. Embedded videos in the Weekly Update are a new marketing technique. Susan thanked Deanna, Rick and Mike, who produced a hilarious recruiting video, for their videos.

J. Finance and Administration – Dave and Anne said all was covered earlier in the meeting.

- **Working Groups**

Center for Small Business – Amber will be meeting with working group.

- **New or Urgent Business** none

- **Key Dates**

- Feb. 3, Spring Semester classes begin
- Feb. 7, First Friday and Help Desk
- Feb. 14, Help Desk

- **Adjournment today was in memory of Gerry Camp at 11:48am.**

Next Meeting: Monday, March 3, 10 am, Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

Submitted by Susan Brackenhoff
Renaissance Society Secretary