

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes from April 1, 2024

Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse at 10 a.m.

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler	X	Carol Barake	
Vice President, Debbie Martinez	x	Dale Good	x
Secretary, Susan Brackenhoff	X	Janet Heath	
Controller, Norv Wellsfry	X	Frank Martinez	
Past President, Ken Cross	x	Kathryn Tobias	
		Vacant	

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
C&M Richard Atkinson	x	Program Darryl Freeman	
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry	x	Resource Dev. Mike Pidd	
Forum Michele Finerty	x	Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	
Forum Co-Chair Janet Heath		Tech Co-Chair Sarah Ryan-Roberts	x
LRP Ken Cross	x	Tech Co-chair Tom Nelson	x
MDCE Debbie Martinez	x	Volunteer Services Carol Barake	
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	x		

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Website Jennifer Kerr	x	Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Weekly Update/Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux		Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS /Dean Dianne Hyson	
Recorder Jim Hodges		Office Manager Amber Korb	x
Guests: Deanna Hanson, Diana Gin, Dave Ferguson Anne Putt	x x x x	Guests: Ati Mosupyoe, Inaugural Dean Cathy Minicucci	 x

1. **Call to Order:** President Deborah Seiler called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Deborah greeted guests Deanna Hanson, Diana Gin, Dave Ferguson, Anne Putt and Cathy Minicucci. Self-introductions were made.
2. **Approval of March 4, 2024, minutes:** Amber asked that the name Cyberstores be corrected to Cybersorts in the March minutes. Michele moved to approve the corrected minutes, Rick seconded and motion passed. No abstentions.
3. **President's Welcome Message:** Deborah's month has been filled with connections from a variety of sources. Efforts made in the past are beginning to bear fruit. The Sac Public Library will now discuss programming at the libraries. The Anti Racism Showcase had a speaker who is willing to present a Friday Forum. Christopher Bruno, Marketing Director for Capital Public Radio is also willing to speak. The Physical Therapy Department invited RS members to participate in the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Department's free summer Fitness Testing and Assessment Program. Multiple contacts that Deborah has made over her two-year term continue to provide opportunities and speakers for RS.

4. Reports

- a. Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff - Susan thanked committee chairs for sending monthly reports and reminded everyone that reports are due one week before the RS Board meeting. Former RS member Noel Hinde passed away on March 3, 2024. Noel led the RS Dining Together group for many years. The family requested that memorials be made to the Renaissance Scholarship Fund along with other selected charities. Mike Pidd will be notified.
- b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry – Norv reminded committee chairs that budget requests are absolutely due by April 15.
- c. Office Manager: Amber Korb- Amber was pleased that the RS Annual Report had been printed. Copies were available for all Board members. An invitation was received for the Sac State Harper Alumni Open House on April 3 from 4:00-8:00 on campus.
- d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS - Dean Hyson did not attend due to the campus wide closure for Cesar Chavez Day.

5. Decisions and Discussion:

- a. Inaugural Dean of Students Ati Mosupyo: Genocide Conference – Dean Mosupyo did not attend due to the campus wide closure for Cesar Chavez Day. She is creating a presentation on the new Black College and will present it to RS when finished.
- b. Approve Slate of Candidates for Board Positions: Nominating chair Susan - This slate of Officers and MALs was presented to the Executive Committee and approved at a special meeting on March 9, 2024. Susan made a motion and Norv seconded to approve the following slate of 2024-2025 Officers and MALs:

President: Deborah Seiler

Vice President: Deanna Hanson

Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff

Controller: David Ferguson

Member at Large: Rick Atkinson

Member at Large: Darryl Freeman

Member at Large: Jackie Lamb

Motion passed with no abstentions. Ken Cross will remain on the Board as Past President.

- c. Elections for the 2024-2025 Board of Directors – Voting will begin on April 8 and ends May 3. Amber offered to prepare the Constant Contact ballot. Loretta Burdeaux and Marian Kile will assist with the ballots that needed to be mailed. Sarah will be the teller.
- d. Annual Report Distribution – Deborah encouraged everyone to take a copy. The Annual Report is very useful when talking with Sac State officials. Thanks to all who worked on it. An electronic copy was posted to the website and communicated to members through the Weekly Update. Printed copies are being sent to those who request it.
- e. Non-renewing Member Survey status - Debbie sent the survey to 1000 former RS members and has received 84 responses. It will be resent today. There were no big surprises—some love zoom and some do not. The survey may spark some to renew their membership.
- f. New Member Experience Survey suggested by Sarah- A listening session was suggested for new members to talk about their first-year RS experience. Also suggested was a survey much like the non-renewing member survey. Ask new members, “What was your experience?” Cathy Minicucci offered to give a summary of new member remarks.
- g. Diversity Proposal Update – Diana Gin will serve as the RS liaison to ACC. She has engaged in discussion with ACC members about the positives and negatives of attending RS seminars on campus as compared to their own \$20 a month classes. Some barriers include: parking and walking to class, people live far away, technology may be a problem and their bus has a 10-mile service radius. On the positive side, ACC has agreed to share publicity with RS and include the summer programs. Libraries could be a good delivery site for any underserved community.
- h. Program Leaders Workshop—Darryl- rescheduled to May 31, 2024. Deborah, Norv, Deanna and Cathy will meet to preplan the program leaders’ workshop.
- i. Update on Sac Public Library Program/Hart Senior Center – Deborah’s efforts have paid off and now the Public Library is willing to talk about programming with RS. A MOU was emailed to the Board for comment. After there were no objections to the MOU, Norv moved and Ken seconded the approval of the Public Library MOU as written. The term would run from July 1 – December 31. They do not want seminars but prefer one-time presentations. Deborah created a list of over 10 presentations that would be of great interest. Cathy suggested programs from the 250th American Revolution Anniversary Project.
- j. Volunteer Recruitment, Retention – Cathy Minicucci conducted exit interviews with some of the former members of the Program Committee. The large amount of turnover lately has been bad for the organization. The responsibilities of the Program Committee are enormous. The catalog is now a flip book that requires intense work. Training program leaders is a burden on the committee. The strategy for developing new program leaders needs strengthening. In the past, new program leaders could be identified by their interest and participation in a class. But with zoom, that interest is harder to identify therefore there are fewer contacts with potential leaders. Tasks need to be identified clearly and assigned a specific time frame. Cathy was thanked for her efforts and the report to the Board. Standout points from the report indicated that to increase the number of volunteers, we need to improve on providing:
 - Specific list of duties
 - Time-limited tasks with realistic requests
 - Efforts of volunteers need recognition
- k. Committee Volunteer Task Lists – Deborah repeated her request for committee chairs to prepare a list of tasks that their committee performs. This list would help impact the

willingness of our members to volunteer. If a volunteer knows the time needed, the actions needed and any other expectations, they would be more likely to offer their help.

- l. SMUD partnership – Frank no report
- m. Spring Social Event - Debbie Martinez is organizing the RS Spring Social for Sunday, May 19 from 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm at Nepenthe Club House in Campus Commons. It will be a catered, casual event with finger foods, wine, and soft drinks. RS has plentiful picnic supplies.
- n. Music Circus Tickets – Deborah has requested 75 free tickets to Jersey Boys at Music Circus that can be offered to our volunteers.

6. Written Committee Reports

Statements of No Report: Long Range Planning

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Finance and Administration – Norv reported that RS is in good financial shape.
- b. Forum – Michele reported that the scheduled Forum speaker for this Friday had cancelled. There were several suggestions for substitute speakers. Christopher Bruno, Marketing Director for Capitol Public Radio, may be available.
- c. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement –At our May RS Annual Meeting, the Warren Bonta Diversity and Inclusion Award will be presented. The MDCE Committee selected St. Andrew’s AME Church as the nominee for this prestigious award. Our relationship with AME has grown beginning with the gospel choir presentation last summer. Debbie made the motion to approve the nomination; Ken seconded it. Motion carried with no abstentions. Debbie sent a letter of thanks and good will to last year’s recipient who has left the Sacramento area. The monthly report shows 4 tabling events.
- d. Nominating – Susan thanked Barbara Davis-Lyman and Ann Reed for their efforts as invaluable nominating committee members. Susan thanked the Board for approving the slate of RS officers.
- e. Program – Darryl submitted his report listing his activities: program committee leader recruitment appeal, presentation application form, recruitment slides developed for program and forum leaders. The UC Davis 12-week series on brain health could be a Friday afternoon series.
- f. Resource Development – Mike’s monthly report noted Give Sac State Day is April 19.
- g. Scholarship – Laurye and her committee were busy today making final scholarship selections. Her monthly report indicated that there are three new Scholarship Committee members: Gordon Garcia, Jackie Lamb, and Janet Heath.
- h. Technology – Tom Nelson and Sarah met with College of Continuing Education (CCE) staff regarding the FY2024-25 budget. Chad Smith will send over a draft budget for review in the next couple of weeks which will be similar to this year’s. Tom and Sarah will also meet with 5-6 members of the Information Resources and Technology (IRT) department to discuss the budget for FY2024-25. Contact continues with Mark Hendricks who said RS has an agreement with Sac State for 15 minutes of support. It is of concern that IRT will be ending support services for VPA connections, will no longer support DVDs and will be moving from Windows 10 to 11. It is imperative to let program leaders know about these changes.
- i. Volunteer Services – Carol is meeting with the Scholarship Committee today. Her monthly report indicates changes in the ushering program.
- j. Communications and Marketing --Rick is looking at lower priced advertising since his committee is under budget. Deadlines for Weekly Update are the Friday by 6:00 p.m. before the next week. Committee is enthusiastic about promoting the upcoming

summer RS diversity program using various media and approaches. This summer's program is visual and diverse, making it attractive to a wide audience. Kathy Hart is making a flier.

8. Working Groups

Summer Program, 2024 - The Summer Program's theme is "Celebrating Diverse Communities in Sacramento through Art, Music, Food and Culture". The schedule is very visual and creative.

Center for Small Business- Amber will be meeting with them on Thursday, April 4.

9. New or Urgent Business none

10.Key Dates

April 5 – First Friday Pizza

April 8 – Voting for Board of Directors begins

May 3 – Voting for Board of Directors ends

May 6 – Board of Directors Meeting

May 10 – Annual Meeting

May 19 – Spring Social Event

11.Adjourn: Norv moved for adjournment; Debbie seconded at 12:10. Motion passed.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2024 on Zoom

Submitted by Susan Brackenhoff