

**RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Draft Minutes**

**Monday, March 3, 2025, 10 am**

**Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse**

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

<b>Committee Chairs</b>	Present		Present
Communications & Marketing Richard Atkinson	X	Program Peter Mundy, Jackie Lamb	X
Finance & Administration Dave Ferguson	X	Resource Development Mike Pidd	X
Forum Co-Chair Mari Shine	X	Scholarship Co-Chair Laurye Brownfield	X
Forum Co-Chair Janet Heath		Scholarship Co-Chair Sue McGinty	X
Membership Co-Chair Deanna Hanson		Tech Co-Chair Sarah Ryan-Roberts	X
Membership Co-Chair Susan Wheeler	X	Tech Co-Chair Tom Nelson	X
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	X	Volunteer Services Carol Barake	X

<b>Liaisons/Guests</b>	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	X
Recorder Jim Hodges		Office Manager Amber Korb	X
Assistant Controller Anne Putt	X	Board Liaison: Diana Gin	

Guest: Trisha Uhrhammer	X	Guest: Marian Sheppard	
Guest: Kevin Collins		Guest: Ralph Paladino	X
Guest: Bob Silva	X		

1. **Call to Order** - President Deborah Seiler called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. **Approval of February 3, 2025 minutes** - Motion made by Dave to approve; Mike seconded. Minutes approved.
3. **President's Welcome** -Deborah met with the director of some of the Affinity Centers and said unfortunately there is a feeling of doom and gloom on the campus. Students and faculty are unsure of the future. This Thursday there will be a meet and greet at the Dreamer Center. All were encouraged to visit an Affinity Center to talk and support students. Board members signed a well wishes card for Phil Ho.
4. **Reports**
  - a. **Secretary:** Susan Brackenhoff received word of Dave Harzoff's passing, an active RS member. He served on several boards in the Sacramento region seeking to conserve natural places and create wild spaces. Phil Ho who had a very bad fall while snowshoeing is alive but seriously injured.
  - b. **Controller:** Dave Ferguson and Anne Putt presented the budget workshop for 2025-2026. See attachment.
  - c. **Office Manager:** Amber Korb Other than a few glitches with the UTAPS system, activities have been normal. The Help Desk has gone well.
  - d. **Sac State Liaison:** Dr. Marya Endriga, Interim Dean of the College of SSIS reported a swirl of speculation and uncertainty prevalent on campus. Multiple cuts are being made by President Wood. While Sac State enrollment remains stable, many colleges and universities are losing students. The number one cost (90%) at Sac State is staffing. One way to decrease costs is to merge Department Chair positions from multiple colleges into only one Dean. This would require approval by the University Senate and would take some time. No vacancies are being filled and professors are being asked to come back from tenure projects. DEI is an ongoing concern of students. Professors should consider this when working with students. There is a recruitment effort focusing on foreign students. Dr. Endriga said our Friday presence on campus helps to maintain a healthy campus environment.
5. **Decisions and Discussion**
  - a. **New Committee Co-Chairs-** Deborah welcomed Mari Shine as the new Forum Committee Co-Chair and Susan Wheeler as the new Membership Committee Co-Chair. Both are great additions!

- b. **Budget Workshop** – See attachment <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ui=2&ik=98e3762a6e&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1826894191827014402&th=195a6e969212d302&view=att&zw&disp=inline>
- c. **Nominations** -The nominating committee has been conducting interviews and is preparing a slate to present to the Executive Board on March 25. Dr. Ralph Paladino has accepted Vice President position. Ralph has been intricately involved in business and education, served as elementary principal in Bridgeport, Connecticut and as an Executive Board Member-at-Large and Grievance Co-Chairman, Bridgeport Council of Administrators and Supervisors. Two of the three MAL positions have been filled. Bob Silva and Marian Sheppard bring enormous skills and talents to Renaissance.
- d. **Tech Host alternatives** - The group “Senior Tech Pals” were asked to assist with being tech hosts but they declined.
- e. **Partnerships with theater and ballet** -The membership committee will continue to pursue relationships with numerous theaters and ballet.
- f. **SMUD** -Little to report

6. **Written Committee Reports** -- As submitted.

Statement of No Report:

7. **Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs**

- a. **Finance and Administration** – Dave and Anne were thanked for the outstanding budget workshop. A \$17,000 transfer from the Scholarship Fund to the Endowment Fund is still pending. Letter directing the transfer of the Nelsen Fund to the Endowment Fund has been signed and returned to the Foundation. The transfer is still pending.  
January Financials (Final):  
Revenues: \$184,985 o  
Expenditures: \$79,005 o  
Cash Balance: \$284,589
- b. **Forum** –Mari will serve as co-chair with Janet Heath who is currently the tech host lead for the Forums. Linda Cassidy will assume the administrative lead position, a great help to the co-chairs. Mari reported substantial interest in the committee and speakers going forward.
- c. **Membership** – Susan W has created a list of 60 organizations/places that share our demographics.  
Susan W and Deanna are meeting with performing organizations to arrange shared marketing. Susan B has been talking with Harris Center. Cathy Mininucci is constructing a list of new members to ask if they might be interested in serving on a new member focus group. Data shows that RS has approximately the same number of members joining each year as leaving after the first year. We need intel as to why this is happening.

- d. **Program** – Peter Mundy/Jackie Lamb – Good news was shared that Ralph Paladino will be stepping up to co-chair this committee. This is the final month of committee service for Peter Mundy.
- e. **Resource Development** – Mike’s efforts have paid off. Since the initial order of shirts sold out, Mike has ordered additional shirts. Donations total over \$1000 for the Foundation. The donor will claim 100% of the cost as a donation. The RS will cover the cost of the shirts and tumblers.
- f. **Scholarship** – Laurye announced the addition of new members--Clare Payne and possibly two other people. Laurye developed a consent form for the students to release their likeness. Currently there are 80 applications being scored by two teams. The deadline for the applications by students was March 2. It is possible there may be about 120 total applications. Committee is considering a scholarship video.
- g. **Technology** – Sarah/Tom are reviewing registration issues with our on-line registration system. Many of the issues that arose had to do with allowing enrollees to select their preference for how they would attend a hybrid class – in person or on Zoom. A meeting is planned with Steve Grondin, our developer, for February 28 to review issues that arose at the start of the semester, go over recommendations for changes, and plan future updates and workflow.
- h. **Volunteer Services** – Carol reported members continue to be generous with their donations to the ASI Food Pantry. Summer Hayes will be leaving the food pantry. The gerontology mentors are primarily meeting on Zoom with their students. This semester it was more difficult to find mentors. The on-line system for volunteering to usher is active.
- i. **Communications and Marketing** –Rick is beginning to streamline the Weekly Update. He is reviewing what goes in and how members can be diverted back to the catalog. One method to shorten the WU is to add links to the catalog descriptions. Another is to add information to the Recorder about the classes. Heat maps can tell how many hits the links receive. Rick is planning a new RS brochure and needs a graphic designer. Amber offered her help.

## 8. Working Groups

Center for Small Business – Amber met recently with the students to review part of the document.

## 9. New or Urgent Business None

## 10. Key Dates

- a. Monday, March 31 Cesar Chavez Day
- b. Monday, April 7 at 10 am Board meeting
- c. Monday, August 4 catalog posted
- d. Friday, August 8 Open House
- e. Monday, August 11 enrollment begins
- f. Tuesday, September 2 first day of classes

## **11. Adjourn**

Deborah adjourned the meeting at 12:12 pm.

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 7 at 10 am on Zoom**

**Submitted by Susan Brackenhoff**

**Renaissance Society Secretary**