



RETIRES ASSOCIATION
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

ETSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom by Jack Rhoton. Members present were Jack Rhoton, Susan Burkey, Priscilla Ramsey, Charles Moore, Cynthia Burnley, Bonny Stanley, Don Gotterbarn, David Kalwinsky, Norma Hogan, Jeff Wardeska and Tisha Harrison

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the August 2021 meeting were approved as emailed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Jack Rhoton reported:

- Some stated that they did not receive the Newsletter.
- There was good attendance for the Martin Center tour.
- The Annual Meeting was discussed and it was decided to do it was an Eat and Chat and have the Annual Meeting in the Spring (perhaps late February or early March.) Dr. Pack would be the speaker in November with some entertainment from the ETSU Chorale which could possibly be pre-recorded. Fred could introduce Dr. Pack. Jack will send something out to the general membership.
- A suggestion for the Annual Meeting in the Spring was the League of Women Voters and a variety of topics could be covered in that presentation or Randy Wykoff could be invited back in the Spring. The new Provost should be invited as well as Dr. Noland. Priscilla will be in charge of door prizes and favors. .
- A slate of officers is needed for 2022: President – Fred Tudiver; President-elect – Norma Hogan; Secretary – Susan Burkey (maybe) and Treasurer – Charles Moore. Tisha will send out the officers in an email.
- A Program Committee chair is needed.
- Jack will continue as Service Committee Chair
- Thanks was expressed to Tisha for a great newsletter.

Membership Committees: Cynthia Burnley reported

- There is only one new retiree for August and a letter will be sent about ETSURA.
- There was one annual membership renewal.
- Wilsie Bishop has not renewed her membership.

Finance Committee – Tisha Harrison reported

- The fund balances are Retirees Assoc. \$ 5,272.31; Life Membership - \$26,987.38; Scholarship Endowment \$264,031.78 and Endowment Operating - \$17, 687.41.
- The only expense has been \$0.51 for postage.
- We don't know at this point how ECU will have a financial impact in the coming year.
- Names of scholarship recipients have not been received – Tisha will check on this.

Service Committee – Jack Rhoton reported

- Numbers volunteering at Second Harvest have increased. For those who wish to come, it is the 2nd Wednesday (October 13th) from 8:00 a.m. – Noon.
- Jack has also helped with food distribution.
- Volunteers are needed at the Gray Fossil Site.

Liaison Committee – Priscilla Ramsey reported

The biggest issue has been those about following the CDC guidelines for COVID-19 virus. Despite long discussions among the Senators, these guidelines have been difficult to implement because of ambiguity of terms such as social distancing during sporting events and limited classroom space for social distancing. Mandatory mask wearing in another sticking point. It simply cannot be regulated outside building and in some cases even inside buildings. Furthermore, there are no consequences for those who refuse to wear them. Therefore, Senator Funk presented a resolution to recommend to the University which, after a lot of word smithing, was approved by the Senate:

1. To require masks at all inside and outside university events.
2. To facilitate social distancing.
3. To support faculty decision to change the format of a class from in person to online when COVID-19 infections dictate a change.
4. 4. To advocate to make the vaccine mandatory for all ETSU students, faculty, staff and patrons.

Also discussed was loss of continuing students and a drop in international students.

UT and MTSU have had increases.

Bucky's Pantry has had a lot of solicitations, is staffed by students and well stocked.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Susan Burkey, Recording Secretary

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Susan Burkey, Recording Secretary