



RETIREES ASSOCIATION
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

ETSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom by Jack Rhoton. Members present were Susan Burkey, Gail Burlison, Charles Moore, David Kalwinsky, Jeff Wardeska, Scott Champney, Cynthia Burnley, Fred Tudeviver, Norma McRae, Jack Rhoton and Don Gotterbarn.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the March meeting were approved with one correction

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) **Executive Committee:** Jack Rhoton reported:

- He is serving on the Committee for Selection of the New Provost. Four have been selected and have been on campus. The selection was given to Dr. Noland and he will make an announcement on April 30th.

b) **Membership Committee:** Cynthia Burnley reported

- March had five new retirees and letters were sent to them. Each new retiree gets a packet from ETSURA
- There were 7 new lifetime memberships and they get a certificate.
- There were 10 new annual memberships.
- There are 1100 in the system. If people don't join, should they continue to receive the newsletter or get nothing after the first year? The question of how many come to the summer and fall meetings who are not members was raised.

c) **Finance Committee** – Gail Burlison reported

- The fund balances are Retirees Assoc. \$ 2,761.49; Life Membership - \$26,602.93; Scholarship Endowment \$260,404.90 and Endowment Operating - \$12, 453.68 – this amount will drop when scholarships are awarded.
- Money taken in was \$830 and money spent was \$1100 – which was the expense of the newsletter.

d) **Program Committee**

- The Eat and Chat presentation by Dr. Wayne Schubert was recorded and Tisha will try to send it out to members. The suggestion was made to put it in a drop box file. She will forward it to Don and he can advise what to do.
- Todd Barber, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, will be the guest speaker for the ETSURA June 11th luncheon, beginning at 11:30 a.m. The title of his talk will be “Mars Expedition” and he will perform for us, play the piano and sing, prior to his talk. He has requested about an hour and a half for his talk and performance.
- The November Annual Meeting was discussed. If it is held at the Culp Center, the cost would be \$1,838 based on 80 people which would be \$23 per person. The charge was \$20 per person in 2019. Dr. Robert Pack has confirmed that he will speak. If the meeting is in person, there will need to be entertainment – several suggestions were made.
- A possible tour of the Culp Center will take place in August or September.

e) **University/Community Service Committee:** Jack reported

- Serving at Second Harvest is still on hold for now.

f) **Liaison Committee** – Priscilla reported

- Jeremy Ross addressed the Senate to give an update on campus facilities. The Legislature provided \$2 million more for maintenance than was requested but did not budget for the \$52 million academic center building.
- The VA Building 2 for Orthotics and Prosthetics is in early stages of being built.
- The University Commons opened on April 16th and was entirely funded by Sonia King (daughter of the Martins). It extends from the Culp Center to Bell Dr. and eventually it will be extended all the way to the Football Stadium. The Commons has lots of green and paved space for student activities. There is a swing, a putting green, shuffleboard, basketball hoop, corn hole toss and other games. A giant slide from the top of the hill between the dorms and Culp Center is also planned.
- Other matters of concern are a new software tool called Digital Measures, to record ongoing and new faculty activities of teaching, research and service. It doesn't replace FAP, FAR, and FAE but it makes it easier for faculty and chairs when that information has to be accessed.
- Another matter under discussion concerns non-patentable intellectual property. Because online courses are open to the public, the concern is how can the original work of the faculty be protected. It does not have an easy answer but the AAUP perspective on intellectual property is under consideration.
- Dr. Foley reports the Board of Trustees has proposed a tuition increase and it has been approved.
- Student enrollment for Fall 2021 is down by 100 students according to Dr. Noland.

NEW BUSINESS:

If anyone has newsletter items, those should be submitted ASAP. Priscilla will write up a report of the Faculty Senate meeting. It was suggested to ask Diane Nelson to submit an article about her past work. The deadline is May 20th.

Hard copies of the newsletter should be sent to paid membership.

Scott Champney announced the Executive Committee of ACL met in February to discuss the restarting of ACL Programs. The plan is to begin in September with sessions during September and October. There is an agreement with Food City to use their meeting room. The Committee will meet again in June to begin selecting speakers.

The next ETSURA meeting will be May 25th at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Susan Burkey, Recording Secretary