



**RETIREES ASSOCIATION**  
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**ETSU Retirees Association Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 31, 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, Scott Champney, Cynthia Burnley, Bonny Stanley, Don Gotterbarn, David Kalwinsky, Norma Hogan and Tisha Harrison

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee:** Jack Rhoton reported:

- The Newsletter was emailed today (August 31<sup>st</sup>) – please review carefully. There is an article on Kimberly McCorkle – introducing herself to ETSURA and summarizing her first 2 months at ETSU.
- Hard copies of the newsletter will be mailed if there is no email address
- ECU contribution of \$2,500 can be used to cover the cost of mailings and assist with meeting costs.
- Thirty members have indicated they will participate in the Martin Center Tour on Thursday. Tisha will suggest that folks wear a mask
- The Eat and Chat for September was discussed. One Acre is meeting today (Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>) to decide if they will remain open. A decision will be made in the next few days as to proceeding with the Eat and Chat.
- The November Annual Meeting was discussed. It might be necessary to cancel this meeting also. We will see how things play out in the next few weeks.

**Membership Committees:** Cynthia Burnley reported

- The new retirees for May, June and July were listed on the agenda.
- There are 2 new lifetime members and 5 annual members to ETSURA
- Tisha sent out a letter to new retirees with upcoming events of ETSURA and stated for those joining to please provide an email address.
- A question had been raised as to insurance coverage when retiring and coverage if a retiree joins ETSURA. This question needs to be directed to HR.

**Finance Committee** – Tisha Harrison reported

- The fund balances are Retirees Assoc. \$ 5,272.76; Life Membership - \$26,987.19; Scholarship Endowment \$263,981.78 and Endowment Operating - \$17, 687.41.
- The only expense has been postage of \$68.00.
- The Retirees Assn. amount increased due to the ECU donation.
- There are currently 5 students receiving \$1,000 scholarships

**Service Committee** – Jack Rhoton reported

- Volunteering at Second Harvest resumed in June. Had good participation during the summer.
- For those who wish to come, it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. – Noon.

**Liaison Committee** – Priscilla Ramsey reported

- Dr. Noland spoke before the Faculty Senate at the annual Fall Retreat. He stated that enrollment is down about 300 students but expects that to increase in the next couple of weeks with late admission. The budget is balanced – thanks in part to CARES funding which also provides \$500 stipends to all students who qualify. He had to rescind the required mask mandate while on campus due to the Governor’s saying otherwise. However masks and COVID-19 vaccinations will be available and strongly recommended.
- Of concern are the 30 custodial vacancies on campus and even outside agency workers are not available. Hopefully this will change soon.
- 55% of classes will return to the classroom and Dr. Noland says he does not expect a return of all online classes like last year. For many faculty and students, this was good news.
- Renovation of Lamb Hall has begun and funding has been approved for the Center Building (old student center and early medical school), the Humanities building and Brown Hall. Start dates have not been announced.
- There has been a lot of activity in the MiniDome and renovations are taking place to meet fire codes. Look for a new and more functional MiniDome in the future.
- Priscilla has been asked to do an ETSURA presentation – probably next Spring and she would like to do a power point presentation.
- Be sure and visit University Commons – there are lots of fun and relaxing things to do.

**Other business:**

Dr. Randy Wykoff’s update on COVID is very helpful and Tisha will send the link for all to read.

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

Susan Burkey, Recording Secretary