



**RETIRES ASSOCIATION**  
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**ETSU Retirees Association Board Meeting**

**Minutes DRAFT**

**Tuesday, February 22, 2022**

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

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the January, 25, 2022 meeting were approved as emailed. Rhoton moved; Burnley seconded; unanimous.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee:** Fred Tudiver reported.

- We will aim for a face-to-face meeting at our June 9<sup>th</sup> summer luncheon/picnic. Covid in Washington County has declined only about 20% at this point. There is a danger of losing too many members if we continue with only virtual events.
- The February 18<sup>th</sup> presentation by Adam Dickson was excellent. Can we have a board meeting at the Langston Center, as well as a tour? Tisha will check on availability for Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. We could meet earlier or have a tour (and invite all members) earlier.
- We have requested continuing support from Eastman but haven't heard from them yet.

**Membership Committees:** Cynthia Burnley reported.

There were the following new retirees/members:

**Lifetime New Members: None**

**Annual New Members: None**

**January Retirees**

Dr. Gordon Bailes, Professor of Computing  
Ms. Polly Crowder, Academic Advisor, University Advisement  
Ms. Angela Dixon, Information Research Tech 2, Psychiatry  
Ms. Gloria Hurt, Custodian, Custodial Services  
Ms. Sue Russell, Office Manager, Student Services COM  
Mrs. Margaret Tipton, Secretary 3, Pathology  
Ms. Joanna Wicker, Credentialing Coordinator, Deans Office, Clemmer College

Cynthia received these names too close to the 2/18 eat-and-chat to send a letter. She will now send a letter with information about upcoming events.

Who is supposed to offer a lifetime membership to Wilsie Bishop? Tisha will draft a letter for Fred to send.

**Finance Committee** – Charles Moore, Treasurer, had to leave before his report. Tisha has sent the current information to the board.

- The fund balances are Retirees Assoc. \$5,294.37; Life Membership - \$26,887.38; Scholarship Endowment - \$276,121.80 and Endowment Operating - \$13,187.41

**University/ Community Service Committee** – Jack Rhoton reported.

- Second Harvest:
  - Jack wrote a brief piece for the newsletter about the record turnout for Second Harvest.
  - We may need to communicate that there are some tasks that don't require lifting weights.
  - There is also a mobile unit that carries boxes to sites for distribution.
  - A monthly email reminder will help with turnout. Tisha can send it out a week before.
  - Next session at Second Harvest will be Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The time is flexible, and so most people show up around 9:00 or 10:00.
- Several members have written items for the next newsletter.

**Liaison Committee** – Priscilla Ramsey reported.

Faculty Senate report for February—several issues:

1. Spring enrollment is down 200 students, an improvement over fall which was down 400 students
2. Lottery scholarships have been increased to \$5,100 from \$3,500. Distinguished Faculty Awards have been increased to \$7,500.
3. There is no significant increase in tuition (except College of Medicine and College of Pharmacy) this year; but meal plans have increased, based on rising food costs.
4. HR 2670: Faculty senators are discussing but have taken no action.
  - HR 2670 is sponsored by the TN House and Senate, which mirrors critical race theory (CRT) legislation around the country and has passed the House Education Subcommittee.
  - HR 2670 would require colleges to survey students every other year to assess campus climate with regard to diversity of thought and students' comfort level in speaking freely on campus, regardless of political affiliation or ideology. The bill would prevent colleges from penalizing students and would give students, faculty, and staff the ability to sue institutions for discriminating against them for not accepting diverse concepts.

5. Last, a proposal to establish a position for a university ombudsman, responsible to the university president, who will provide confidential, impartial and independent conflict management and consultation services to university faculty and staff. The purpose of this position is to explore options to resolve conflicts and problematic issues and to bring systematic concerns to the attention of the university administration. The proposal was passed by both Faculty and Staff Senates.

**Other Business and Miscellaneous:**

Our next meeting will be March 29, 2022 via Zoom.

There being no further business, Fred adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

--Norma Hogan, Recording Secretary