



RETIREES ASSOCIATION

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

ETSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Mike Miyamoto. Members present: Priscilla Ramsey, Jack Rhoton, Susan Burkey, John Hancock, Dave Kalwinsky, Mika Miyamoto, Louis Modica, and Fred Tudiver Members absent – Gail Burleson, Don Carter, Judith Story, Dale Schmitt and Jeff Wardeska. Tisha Harrison represented the Office of Administration.

Mike also welcomed incoming Board members: Cynthia Burnley, Chu-Ngi Ho and Don Gotterban.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee:

- Eat and Chat: Bob Patton is scheduled for the Feb. 2019 slot to talk about his book on Tennessee politics. For the April 2019 Eat and Chat, Colin Baxter is scheduled to talk about his book on the Holston Munitions Plant. No one has been scheduled for September.
- Field Trip: We had previously talked about having Doug Taylor host a tour of the newly opened Bldg. 60, followed by lunch at the VA facility. March 2019 is a viable possibility as it falls between Feb. and April Eat and Chats. May would be very busy with end-of-year events, including graduation. Other possibilities are July or Aug. of 2019, but ETSURA members may be away on vacation. If it will be in late March, it can be publicized in the newsletter.
- Entertainment for the Annual Meeting: Mike has asked Dr. Esther Park (classical pianist) of the Dept. of Music to provide the entertainment for 2019 Annual meeting. Mike visited the JCCC and met with Sally Dodson, who said we could use the piano with no problem. They have a baby grand Steinway on wheels that can be moved to the center of the ballroom. Dr. Park said she was agreeable and Mike told her we could pay \$200. The consensus of the Board was to approve Dr. Park as entertainment.
- 2018 Annual Meeting/Brunch: Mike thought the meeting went better than expected. It was felt that people paid close attention to Kyle Colvett's presentation. One comment was made that the chicken was over-cooked. The gift for Kyle Colvett was \$135 and the cost of entertainment was \$250. Suggestions for speakers for 2019 are needed – one is Grant Summers and Tannery Knob Bike Park.
- Mailing/Emailing Lists. We have a problem with outdated lists of our members and retirees. We have sent snail mail notices and newsletters to all paid members. We have been sending the March newsletter and notices by snail mail also. We could save postage

by sending just email notices to non-member retirees(i.e., invitations to Summer Luncheon and Annual meeting). Tisha stated Advancement Services is working on getting correct emails for ESURA. She stated mailings go out twice a year to all retirees.

- Mack P. Davis Scholarships. At the October meeting, Mike proposed we change the awards from \$500 to \$1,000 per person per year, with a concomitant decrease in the number of recipients. Note that this would supersede the proposal of Sept. 2018 to increase the awards from \$500 to \$750 for junior and seniors. A vote will need to be taken for the official minutes. There is currently \$126,000 in the Scholarship Fund at 4% interest. It was suggested in 2019 to give 2 scholarships to Freshmen. It was noted that cost per student per year is \$22,000. The question was raised as to the number that graduate in 4 years. It was suggested that the scholarship be made more attractive to make it a coveted award. Tisha stated that students do get thank you notes and are encouraged to use them. Kathy Feagins office can decide who the recipients will be. The question was raised as to the ETSU drop-out rate after the Freshman year. The graduation rate is 47%. It was suggested to invite students to the annual meeting and ETSURA cover the cost. Parents can also be invited but will be expected to pay. It was also suggested to send a formal invitation by email. Kathy Feagins can provide information as to the best way to contact the students.

The consensus of the group was to proceed with this plan.

Finance Committee: The Financial Statement was distributed to members. The report showed \$7,778 in the fund used to pay for the annual meeting. The ECU money was \$1500 received in May. A final bill from the Country Club has not been received.

University/Community Service Committee: Jack Rhoton reported

Second Harvest continues on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. There were four persons who worked in November. Activities and duties at Second Harvest vary each month. Jack said he would take the ETSURA membership list and call the people he knows inviting them to help at Second Harvest. It was suggested that perhaps Dr. Noland would come as well. Jack also stated that if anyone has trouble standing, a job will be assigned to them so they can sit. Tisha will email Jack the membership list with phone numbers.

Liaison Committee: Priscilla Ramsey reported:

- A report from Dr. Bill Duncan, Vice Provost for Research and Sponsored Program. Indicated most of the research programs focus on health care, and major areas of focus now are on rural health, population health, child health, and behavioral health. New approaches are on interdisciplinary projects and environmental research. Ballard Health is also supporting ETSU's research programs which was part of the original merger agreement.
- Board of Trustees Report from Dr. Fred Alsop: the proposed new humanities building (old student center building) is now #5 on the governor's list. This will be a tear down with new construction. All minutes of the BOT can be accessed on-line.

- New policy to elect a new faculty trustee when Dr. Alsop's tenure is over has been developed and approved by faculty senate.
- Report by Dr. Bill Hemphill, representing ETSU on the Tennessee Board of Regents, dealt mainly with educational issues.
- Report by Dr. Randy Byington, representing the Tennessee University Faculty Senates, which meets once a year, dealt mainly with teaching issues.
- Report by Jeremy Ross, Chief Operating Officer: in the coming year, there will be 340 new or continuing campus projects, and 40 capital projects. (Culp Center, Performing Arts Center, renovation of Lamb Hall, purchasing Millennium Center, etc.) for a total of \$200 - \$400 million in construction and planning costs.

The next ETSURA meeting will be January 29, 2019.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 a.m.

Susan Burkey

Recording Secretary