



RETIREES ASSOCIATION

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## ETSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Jeff Wardeska. Members present: Mike Miyamoto, Priscilla Ramsey, Judith Story, Jeff Wardeska, Susan Burkey, Fred Tudiver, Lou Modica, Don Carter and John Hancock. Members absent – Gail Burleson, David Kalwinsky, Jack Rhoton, and Dale Schmitt. Diana McClay and Krista Richesin represented the Office of Human Resources.

**ELECTION OF PRESIDENT:** Since the office of chairman was vacant, the first order of business was to elect a chairman. Mike Miyamoto volunteered to serve and he was elected by acclamation.

**PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the November 28, 2017 were approved and accepted.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Executive Committee:** The question was raised as to Tod Jablonski continuing on the Board. Priscilla Ramsey stated that she had replaced him and would complete his term.
- b) **Communications and Membership Committees:** Chair Judith Story announced that there are 301 members of ETSURA. Letters will be sent to new retirees. Gail Burleson, Priscilla Ramsey and Don Carter will serve on the committee. A meeting will be scheduled in February to discuss ways to increase membership. Priscilla Ramsey will send letters to those with no emails. It is not feasible to call everyone every month as most members don't want the inconvenience of a call. She stated she has a list of who not to call. The question was raised as to the number of lifetime members and that number was not readily available. Mike Miyamoto also suggested to attach a survey to the membership renewals that go out in March.
- c) **Finance Committee:** Gail Burleson was not present to give a report. It was stated that the Mack Davis family has been very generous in contributing to that fund. It was also suggested that those recipients be invited to the annual meeting and provide entertainment with any special talents they have.
- d) **Program Committee:** Chair Mike Miyamoto announced that Doug Taylor will be the speaker for the February 15<sup>th</sup> Eat n Chat at the Golden Corral. Doug is with the medical school. Doug will discuss entrance to the Med School and where the graduates have gone and what they are doing since graduation. Mike stated that The Golden Corral is the best place to have the meeting since they provide a separate room and there is a

wide variety of food plus the cost is reasonable. It is best to make a reservation. It also seems that Wednesdays or Thursdays are two best days to schedule the Eat n Chat. It was suggested that Dr. Bob Patton be invited to the April Eat n Chat – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday to discuss the history of the School of Public Health. Randy Wykoff was suggested as a speaker for the annual meeting along with the Jonesborough Novelty Band as entertainment. It was suggested that the September event feature something artsy or musical.

The Annual Picnic was discussed and Don Carter volunteered to be in charge of the event and Judith Story volunteered to assist him. It was also suggested that the coaches be invited to the picnic to “meet and greet.” Dr. Noland will be invited also. The event will be held again at Food City. It was also suggested that a representative from the CPA come and speak as to what is available there. There are still quite a few door prizes available.

- e) **University/Community Service Committee:** Mike stated that the once a month service at Second Harvest will continue. This event usually last about three hours. Other service events include Moving Day in the dorms, WETS fundraising, Golf Tournament – volunteers are needed to drive a golf cart. Ushering at basketball games was did not receive favorable support. It was also suggested that ETSURA shirts be worn at these events. It was also suggested that an ETSURA library be set up to offer books to borrow to members.
  
- f) **Liaison Committee:** Priscilla Ramsey reported for the Faculty Senate meeting. Drs. Means and Linville addressed the Senate to clarify any questions related to the MSHA and Wellmont merger. Several issues were addressed: how the community would benefit from the merger, role of MEAC, research funding disbursement, CME opportunities, tenure track hiring changes, and interdisciplinary collaboration projects. All responses seemed positive although some plans will take years to implement and others are still in discussion.

Library funding is an issue. At present, library expenditures are about one third compared to libraries of other state colleges/universities. Dean Van Zandt will be invited to address the issue with Faculty Senate.

Digital Scholarship Services was presented by the Library. This is a new computer service for online faculty profiles, conference presentations, creating expert “galleries”, and allowing students to identify faculty with shared research.

Discussion was held concerning displacement of offices and services with Culp Center closing this summer. It will be major juggling effort, but ETSURA meeting space should not be affected.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burkey, Secretary