

Emeriti Association Coordinating Board Meeting

October 21, 2020

Online via Webex

Present: Deborah Huntley, Joanne Burgess, Catherine Carter, Missy Cody, Harry Dangel, John Haberlen, Sandra Owen, Don Ratajczak, Ruth Saxton, Ted Wadley

Absent: William Feldhaus, John DeCastro, Christine Gallant, Richard Miller, Leonard Teel, Charles Williams

Guests: Jay Kahn, Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs
Telly McGaha, Interim Senior Associate Vice President for Constituent Programs

Staff: Adrienne Veal, Scarlett Earley, Office of Donor Relations.

The agenda is appended below, as are October 2020 committee reports and the October 2020 Proposed Bylaw Amendment.

- I. Call to order
- II. Welcome

In the absence of Chair Feldhaus, Chair-Elect Huntley called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. She welcomed everyone.

- III. Introduction and presentation by new Vice President for Development, Jay Kahn

Kahn said that GSU Development had raised \$10 million in the last fiscal year, with August, September, and October being the best months. The last Georgia State Day was the most successful ever. He said that Tim Renick had hosted over 500 representatives the last decade from institutions interested in replicating GSU's successes in retention and graduation. GSU has founded the National Institute for Student Success with Renick as its first director.

Ratajczak asked how covid was affecting finances. Kahn said that GSU was faring better than others in the USG, with good cash reserves, but had had to make 10% budget cuts shortly before he arrived, and he had laid off "a few folks" in development in the last weeks. Enrollment is up, not the meltdown some institutions have seen. Lack of population density around the downtown campus has meant that GSU has not had as many cases as other institutions have and is largely controlling the virus.

The Development presentation was continued by Telly McGaha, Interim Senior Associate Vice President, who also still serves as Director of Development for the Honors College. The Just-in-Time Fund in the Honors College will make awards again in the spring semester. They have now given 80 scholarships, averaging \$400. He has

been able to track about 75% of the recipients, five of whom are now PhD candidates, three are now working in research in the public or private sector, fourteen are pursuing professional degrees, and three have internships or fellowships. They are at institutions such as Emory, Chicago, Fordham, and Georgia State Universities, the London School of Economics and Political Science, the Fulbright Association, the Andrew Goodman Foundation, and the Georgia Women's Policy Institute. About 25% are still students at GSU working on bachelor's degrees.

The Honors College is also planning a Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference (GSURC) this spring. It will be virtual and emeriti are invited.

IV. Approval of meeting agenda

Approval of Minutes from June 22, 2020

The agenda for this meeting and minutes of the last meeting were approved.

V. Committee reports

Please see written reports submitted in advance of the meeting appended below.

Expanding on the nominations committee report, Dangel said that there are no announcements or other awareness of the Emeriti Association on the websites of some colleges, no recognition of emeriti, for example the Robinson College of Business.

He, Rosemary Cox, and others worked on a brochure to be given out at pre-retirement workshops to inform faculty about the activities and benefits of our association, but never finished it. An electronic version of our newsletter could be distributed to department chairs, some of whom do not know we have an emeriti association, yet they are instrumental in getting emeritus applications through the process. He asked Saxton about her colleagues whose applications have been held up.

Saxton said the applications have been in the provost's office for two years. Owen suggested that we have a meeting with the provost. Dangel said she doesn't have time to meet with us, but deans and development officers appreciate the need for emeriti to feel connected to the college. We could identify the development person in colleges where emeriti are in limbo. Early said she would find more information about where the hold-ups are. Veal said they needed specific names to see where and why their applications are held up. Dangel said he and Saxton would work together on that.

For the activities committee, Cody said there had been no Christmas program, but they were still hoping for something around Valentine's day.

From the communications committee, Owen said they were working on posting Perimeter College emeriti to our website, and also on keeping up with the deceased

list. She asked others to help look at the website. We should change the pictures every few months, and need some from the time of covid. She asked about connecting Becker's announcement that he's leaving to our homepage. Huntley said it was a good idea.

Owen said that on the events page of the website there are sections for the Emeriti Association and for the various colleges. Cody said that more information will lead more people to visit our website, and also that connections would help departments increase their outreach to emeriti.

Owen said there was an article in the newsletter about the website when it was first put together. Huntley said now is a good time for another one because people will be looking for information on benefits. Dangel suggested that an email blast would be faster. Owen asked Early if she could send out some information that Owen put together; Early agreed to do that.

VII. New Business

a. Introduction of new student assistant – Sophia Ragan

Early introduced the new student assistant for the website, Sophia Ragan. She's a first year entrepreneurship major. In high school, she interned at a theater company, managing social media accounts, promotion, marketing, writing, photography, and film.

b. Membership Committee – New Representative(s)

Dangel said that Burgess had joined the membership committee from Perimeter College. No one is working on membership downtown; he'd done that for years and would be happy to work with someone else, ideally from the College of Arts & Sciences.

c. Bylaws Amendment

The proposed amendment, appended below, was sent to the board by email before the meeting. Dangle explained that because of the pandemic, we're meeting virtually. In time of crisis management, we need the option to vote electronically. We can read email and make decisions rather than waiting to see each other.

Gallant had replied to the email, suggesting a change in the first sentence, taking out senate committee or subcommittee and replacing those with Emeriti Board. With those changes, the amendment was approved.

d. USG Retiree Council Representative

Wadley said the USG Retiree Council had met online on October 9, covering open enrollment for health insurance and other benefits provided by the USG. Thorough information had been sent to the board by email on open-enrollment, which begins this month. The HRA benefit remains the same as it has been since inception in 2016, but the USG has commissioned a review in early 2021 on the HRA in terms of balances remaining in accounts at year's end and the level of premiums (including Medicare, Supplement, Advantage, and drug plans) now as compared to 2016. It sounded like they're thinking of reducing the HRA.

Dangel said the USG is squeezed, and he was glad the HRA amount was the same for 2021. People are not getting the recommendation to use their Health Reimbursement Accounts as fast as possible. Some say they just want to save it, others that their military benefits are enough. It makes us look as if we're not using the accounts. Cody pointed out that the HRAs pay no interest and cannot be left to heirs. The USG HRA is more generous than those provided by Emory University and the CDC to their retirees. The review will look at whether the value of the money we've been given has increased or decreased, how it compares to benefits at other institutions, and whether they can afford to keep giving us the HRA, given needs like raises for active employees.

Huntley suggested an article in the newsletter on the benefits of using the HRA and how to use it. Dangel said that people are not aware of all the ways we can use our HRAs, now for over-the-counter medicines and health supplies, even to pay Medicare part B premiums.

Dangel said we needed a new alternate representative to the Retiree Council, since he is now its chair, and Wadley has become GSU representative. Best would be someone from the downtown campus, since Wadley is from Perimeter. The procedure is for the Emeriti Board to vote, since we are the body that helps represent retirees from GSU.

- e. Procedural document for adding new Emeriti to association and website
This topic was discussed earlier.

VIII. Georgia State University Update

Early said that Kahn and McGaha had covered the important up-dates. She suggested outreach to new members, such as an email or welcome letter, letting them know they will get news from the Emeriti Association. She gets emails from emeriti asking whether we've received their information,

and we need to create a document to introduce ourselves to new emeriti as they come in. Owen asked Early to send names to herself and Gallant.

IX. Adjournment

Early said the next meeting would be in January, no date set at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Submitted by Ted Wadley

Coordinating Board Meeting - Agenda
Wednesday, October 21, 2020
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Virtual

- I. Call to order

- II. Welcome

- III. Introduction and presentation by new Vice President for Development, Jay Kahn

- IV. Approval of meeting agenda

- V. Approval of Minutes from June 22, 2020

- VI. Committee Reports (***Please review packet materials prior to meeting***)

- VII. New Business
 - a. Introduction of new student assistant-Sophia Ragan
 - b. Membership Committee – New Representative(s)
 - c. Bylaws Amendment
 - d. USG Retiree Council Representative
 - e. Procedural document for adding new Emeriti to association and website

- VIII. Georgia State University Update

- IX. Adjournment

OCTOBER 2020 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairs Report – Bill Feldhaus

(Contact: feldhaus@gsu.edu)

No report.

Membership Report – vacant

No report. Recommendation to elect 2 co-chairs (1 from Atlanta campus and 1 from Perimeter campus) at October meeting.

Nominations Report – Harry Dangel

(Contact: hdangel@gsu.edu)

The Nominations Committee has two items for action:

1. Joanne Burgess has been recommended as a member of the Emeriti Coordinating Committee. I think she is from Perimeter College. We need a motion from someone who knows her.
2. We need to select someone to serve as the Georgia State University alternative member to the USG Retiree Council. The Council's bylaws specify that officers can not be voting members, I am the current chair of the USGRC as of July 1, 2020 and so Ted Wadley has moved from our alternative member to our voting member. Our meetings are currently virtual and require no traveling.

Activities Report – Missy Cody and John de Castro, Co-Chairs

(Contact: mmcody50@gmail.com; john.m.de.castro@gmail.com)

No report.

Communications Report – Christine Gallant and Sandra Owen, Co-Chairs

(Contact: cgallant@gsu.edu; sowen2@gsu.edu)

Newsletter Subcommittee, by Christine Gallant, editor and committee co-chair.

The Fall 2020 issue was printed and mailed in early September, and I'm now working on the Winter 2021 issue, due out around Thanksgiving. Both issues have as their general theme, "Coping with Covid-19 at Georgia State." I expect that this will be the theme for future issues for some time, unfortunately, for I think that emeriti wish to know how our University is progressing in these difficult times for higher education.

Emeriti Website Subcommittee, by Sandra Owen, Co-chair Communications Committee; Chair, Emeriti Website

I. Harry Dangel, Missy Cody and Christine Gallant reviewed several College Emeriti member lists and provided missing academic title information that was then entered into appropriate College revision lists for future posting on the website by the incoming student assistant.

2. Jointly reviewed, along with Christine Gallant and Scarlet Earley, three applications for the student assistant position. From the application review, one student was selected for interview. Sophia Ragan accepted the position and began Essentials5 training in early September, 2020.
3. Completed several navigations across all links of the Emeriti website to locate any nonfunctioning links. The link to Aging Connections had been removed by the Gerontology Center. I have decided to replace with a link to [aging.georgia.gov/programs –and-services/home-community-based-services](http://aging.georgia.gov/programs-and-services/home-community-based-services) for the Emeriti website. The Donor Relations, Our Innovations and Activities, University Development and Alumni Affairs link to our Emeriti website includes several links to the old website and will be updated by the student assistant as outlined in the current work plan for the website.
4. I have written the website work plan that outlines website responsibilities specific to additions and/or revisions to be completed October- December, 2020.
5. I have contacted Rashan Beachman of Digital Strategy at Georgia State University. He has agreed to provide monthly analytics data of Emeriti Association website activity. I will then synthesize the data and report trends during my website report at each Board meeting. This is a free service of Georgia State University through Digital Strategy.

Outreach Report – Harry Dangel
(Contact: hdangel@gsu.edu)

Since our last meeting, two news updates have been sent to emeriti members.

Representative Report – Harry Dangel
(Contact: hdangel@gsu.edu)

No report.

October 2020 Proposed Bylaw Amendment

Actions by a university senate committee or subcommittee may be taken by electronic voting. Motions should be sent to the official university email address of record of each committee member, and the committee chair must afford the committee members a reasonable amount of time, and no less than two business days, to respond to a request to vote by email. At least a majority of the entire committee membership must participate before an electronic vote can be considered valid. At least a majority of those responding must vote affirmatively for a motion to pass. Non-responses will not count as either affirmative or negative votes or as abstentions. If a committee member objects to using electronic voting for a particular motion at the time of the vote, voting on the motion must be delayed to an official meeting of the committee. The results of an electronic vote must be reported at the minutes of the next meeting.