

**Emeriti Association Coordinating Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2016 – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Student Center West (SCW) 260**

**A-M-E-N-D-E-D**

**Attendance:** (GSU): Harry Dangel (Chair), Lynn Hogue, Anne Page Mosby, Missy Cody, Myra Carmon, Rankin Cooter, Dave Ewert, Teryl Frey, Christine Gallant, Al McWilliams, Pat Sartain, Don Ratajczak, Charles Williams, Alva Sanders (staff)

(GSU-Perimeter College): Robert McDonough (Chair, Retiree Association), Deborah Huntley, Rosemary Cox, Betty Molloy, Ron Swofford, Erica Hart (staff)

**Not Present:** George Beasley, Harvey Newman

Dangel called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda and Consent Agenda.**

There were no changes or comments on the minutes of the December 9, 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Cody to approve the meeting agenda, and it was seconded by McWilliams. A motion was made by Cody to approve the consent agenda previously sent to the Board, and it was seconded by Ratajczak. Both agendas were approved.

GSU-Perimeter College attendees arrived, they were welcomed to this first joint meeting and introductions were made around the table. Georgia Perimeter College is now one of the colleges at Georgia State University, and is to be known as "Perimeter College." McDonough discussed the name changes of Georgia Perimeter College over the years. We are all one university now, even as consolidation is continuing. Perimeter College will keep its own identity and traditions, for example, emeriti have sponsored scholarships in the past and may continue this tradition.

Dangel distributed two handouts: (1) "Georgia State University Emeriti Association," a brochure that describes the association; and (2) Draft of a survey, "Emeriti Needs Assessment." Dangel asked the Board to send comments about these documents.

**Bylaws Discussion.**

Detailed discussion began related to changes in the "Bylaws of the Emeriti Association of Georgia State University" for paragraph II "Membership," and paragraph III-B "Governance of the Association, Coordinating Board."

"Membership," Paragraph II:

Dangel said he serves as Emeriti Association representative on the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee, a non-voting position, but he is able to make known emeriti concerns and activities and act as a conduit for getting information to members. He is staying aware of any relevant updates. He sees a need for emeriti representation on the University Senate, for example the Faculty Affairs Committee, and for membership to include Perimeter College.

Points about membership that were discussed:

- In the early 2000s the Provost at that time and the Development Office sparked the start of an emeriti association at GSU. It took about 3-4 years to start the current Emeriti Association.
- The Provost gives a stipend of about \$6000 to the association.
- Benefits of membership include free parking; use of recreational facilities for a small fee; retiree ID cards; and as the "Georgia State University Emeriti Association" brochure mentions, "...the

opportunity to continue intellectual, creative and social engagement with each other and with Georgia State University.”

- Sartain recounted the attempt several years ago, spearheaded by Ralph Russell and Sartain, to organize an “all retiree” organization, but it did not work due to lack of a budget and overwhelming numbers of potential retirees at all levels of the university.
- Ewert described the Arizona State University model consisting of subsets: (1) the Emeritus College, an academic unit within the university, (2) ASU Retiree Association for faculty and staff, and (3) the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.
- The Georgia Perimeter College has had an “all retiree” association that includes emeriti. Retirees can become emeriti retroactively.
- The process to approve emeriti has typically been different in each GSU college and administrative unit, for example, some have college-wide promotion and tenure reviews in choosing emeriti; self-nomination to be emeriti is an option, etc. Gallant commented that administrators and officers can be emeriti.
- As a comparison, at GSU-Perimeter a person is recommended for emeritus/emmerita status, then the decision goes to the Senate, which has representatives from the departments, then to the president. At GSU the Senate does not approve emeriti.
- The GSU Emeriti Association membership is a fairly small number now, with total membership of 350-400 (many living outside the Atlanta area), and about 100 participating in activities.
- It was agreed by consensus that membership in the association shall remain as emeriti.
- There was a question about Emeriti Association Board members having business or identification cards. Perhaps all emeriti could have them. Jerry Rackliffe may be the one to approach.
- Audience estimates for recurring activities are: Benefits meeting each fall, 150; Valentine Luncheon, 100; Author Series, 10-25; Field trips, e.g. High Museum, Georgia wineries, 20-30.

McWilliams moved to accept the new language on membership. Cody seconded. Revised wording for “membership” in the bylaws is as follows: “Membership. All Georgia State University faculty and administrators who have been awarded emerita or emeritus status by the Board of Regents.” Ratajczak moved to accept, and Gallant seconded the motion. The new wording was approved.

#### Governance of the Association, Paragraph III-B: Coordinating Board.

Discussion continued on how to adjust the Board membership of “no more than eighteen members.”

- Over the years the Emeriti Association has tried to have representation from each college on the Board, without specifying how many from each college. In fact, some units, like the Honors College, do not have retirees, yet. The membership chair has usually informally solicited representatives from various units of the university. Regarding vacancies, the membership chair presents recommendations representing the colleges.
- In order to promote the consolidation it may be good to have at least 3 representatives from Perimeter College.
- In the various colleges there are activities that focus on that college and these will continue.
- McWilliams asked how a previous total of 15 Board members was set, and all agreed to look closer at that number. Hogue suggested changing the wording to have at least one member from each college and campus. Cooter indicated this number was previously 12 and this number can be changed by vote. There was a problem even filling that number.
- Ratajczak indicated Perimeter College would eventually be integrated into the university. Consolidation is currently in transition, so perhaps there should be a guaranteed place for Perimeter College Board members until merging is more complete, perhaps for 3 years. Frey commented we should have a provisional statement until the two institutions are more actively together. All agreed to specify a number of years for the time being and then revisit. Mosby

suggested that if a number of representatives from Perimeter College are specified, then the Board might revisit that decision in three years.

- A question was raised by Perimeter College representatives about how many colleges GSU has.
- A suggestion was made to start with 3 members from Perimeter College and see how this works. Betty Molloy noted *that the* GSU-Perimeter Retiree Association has about 450 retirees, with approximately 120 active in their Association. They are working on making a distinction for us between emeriti and general retirees. Therefore, with these numbers, three representatives may be a good number to start with.
- At GSU-Perimeter, events include emeriti and retirees. At GSU this is not the case. For example the recent Valentine's luncheon was not open to all retirees. The Emeriti Association is fairly small compared to the total of all GSU retirees.
- There was a discussion that some events can be for all retirees, but that we should be careful looking at memberships beyond emeriti. Cody indicated that if there is an all-retiree organization in the future, there can be groups within that group.
- Gallant stated she would hate to see the Emeriti Association lose its identity by opening its membership to all retirees rather than limiting it to emeriti. Cooter pointed out in justification that the GSU Foundation supported the Emeriti Association through \$6000 annually, so we had no dues. Cody added that the Emeriti Association also had space constraints, namely the campus meeting rooms assigned for our activities. All present agreed to limit our membership to emeriti.

All Board members were in agreement about the new wording for the section, "Coordinating Board" for the next three years. There will be as many as eighteen Board members and three can be from Perimeter College. This will be revisited in 3 years. The new wording is: "Executive authority of the Association shall be approved by the Coordinating Board (hereinafter the Board) consisting of no more than eighteen members, including at least three from Perimeter College." McWilliams moved for adoption of new wording and this was seconded by Gallant.

All were in favor; none opposed. GSU-Perimeter will send names to Membership Chair, Christine Gallant, to nominate for Emeriti Association Coordinating Board representatives.

#### **New Business.**

The process for getting I.D. cards for GSU-Perimeter board members will be explored. Dangel will check with the Development office as to whether or not Perimeter cards will be recognized. He will also discuss this with Walter Massey

Dangel led a discussion on the hand-out, "Emeriti Needs Assessment," and the "Next Door" concept for gathering needs of emeriti. An additional way to hear from emeriti may be through a blog.

**Website.**

The website is out of date now, and will be updated soon with pictures, information on the consolidation, announcements, and especially the names of deceased emeriti indicated.

**Activities.**

The way is now open to plan events on a variety of campuses; GSU downtown, as well as on Perimeter College campuses. Membership and activities at GSU have incurred no charges from individual members, and activities are “free.” At GSU the Provost and Development Office help fund the emeriti account. The Development Office has tracked the generosity of the emeriti and the university has supported the association’s events. There are several large events each year: Valentine’s luncheon, Holiday Party, Benefits presentation, lunch-time speakers, field trips (no food provided.) The Development Office feels the emeriti are a very valuable asset, and they donate to the university.

The following Emeriti Association committees need to have representatives from Perimeter College: Program, Membership, and Newsletter.

Upcoming scheduled events are:

March 9 – Author Series Pearl McHaney, *A Tyrannous Eye: Eudora Welty’s Nonfiction and Photography*.

April 14 – Music Recital at GSU downtown campus.

May – Frey is organizing a tour of the Atlanta Beltline.

GSU – Perimeter College events:

- Summer – Skidaway Island, a possible hands-on event to analyze offshore samples in the lab.
- Fall (once in September)—There is a writers workshop/retreat, coordinated with the Chattahoochee Writers Conference
- April 8-10 & April 15-17—Theater group, next producing “Our Town.” Announcements have been sent to their emeriti that have emails, email invitations to Emeriti Association members now need to be added.
- Monthly (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays)—Book Club discussions, next meeting being on February 17 to talk about *The Poet of Tolstoy Park* by Sonny Brewer. (Note: There are no meetings in summer and in the month of December.) A restaurant is the usual meeting place.

Alva and Erica will work on communication for events through the multiple email lists.

**Report on Regents Retiree Association Meeting.**

Cody said that the transition to Aon for health benefits has gone very well. The Regents plan to gather information and feedback on retirees’ experiences, as well as gather and publish FAQs. Cody said that there were 12 people who were in danger of losing benefits because they could not be found by human resources departments. All but one was found thanks to colleagues who helped to locate them. She recommended that as people retire, they give names of individuals who can be contacted to find them in the future if needed.

**Announcement.**

Ewert said that the next Georgia HERO meeting is April 1, 2016 at Emory University in the Luce Center from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. See <http://ga-hero.org> for more details and to register.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

A new picture of the Emeriti Coordinating Board was taken.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Page Mosby, Secretary