Emeriti Association Coordinating Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, July 12, 2017 – 12:00 p.m.
Perimeter College/Clarkston Campus
Student Center--CN 2240

Attendance: Myra Carmon, Catherine Carter, Missy Cody, Rosemary Cox, David Ewert, William Feldhaus, Christine Gallant, John Haberlen, Deborah Huntley, Robert McDonough, Don Ratajczak, Charles Williams, Patricia Sartain, Leonard Teel.
Staff: Katie Layton, Tabatha Michel.
Not present: Rankin Cooter, Harry Dangel, Valerie Fennell, Terry Frey, Lynn Hogue, Alfred McWilliams, Anne Page Mosby, Harvey Newman.
Guest: Dean Peter Lyons.

Don Ratajczak called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and introduced Dr. Peter Lyons, Dean of Perimeter College, who gave an overview of Perimeter College (PC). This new College has 40% of all enrolled GSU students. He noted some present problems, such as a disparity between PC and GSU salaries. This is due to GSU faculty standards that don’t apply to PC faculty, such as research expectations and differing graduate and professional programs.

Rosemary Cox raised questions about the PC process for its selection of Emeriti, for there is a backlog of PC faculty and administrators who have retired since the consolidation and wish to be appointed Emeriti. The College Bylaws are now being drafted by the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC), but there seem to be no guidelines for this process. Upon questioning, Dean Lyons said that he did not know of any specific guidelines or who was chairing the FAC. Rosemary asked if our Emeriti Association Board could have a representative on the FAC to have input into the writing of these Guidelines, and Dean Lyons agreed. Several emeriti expressed their desire for the speedy completion of this process so that our Association could receive new members from PC.

Approval of Meeting Agenda, Consent Agenda, and Minutes. The Board unanimously approved the meeting and consent agendas and the minutes of the last meeting.

Chair’s Report. Don said that instead of giving a formal report, he wished to suggest several areas of change for discussion at our next meeting. In line with this, he intended to introduce amendments to our present Bylaws, but would give us a draft version for our review before any vote.

Possible issues: We need a full report on the Emeriti Endowment Fund that includes our budget, expenditures, and investments. We need to see all expenditures and activities.

We have a good Board, but our Association isn’t well-connected with it. The Board needs more involvement with non-Board members. Don wishes us to consider the organization of the entire Emeriti Association (EA), and possible ways that we can connect to GSU as professionals.
We need to review the nature of our committees, which now are comprised of one person. Committees, by their nature, usually have several members. Do we need interaction and discussion among the committees?

Bob McDonough, President of the PC Retirees Association, added that communication between his Association and ours may be a significant problem. He would like to get the list-serve of EA members so that we can email and talk with one another. Don added that we need several people on each of the committees, not just one person, to handle all of this.

Don suggested that the Board extend its communications to non-Board members, and would like to see the Bylaws amended to reflect this. Since our annual Health Benefits Meeting is our best-attended event, we could have a presentation there on the Emeriti Association, how it works, the Coordinating Board, the Emeriti Endowment, etc. The newsletter also helps to connect our membership.

Missy Cody gave a report on the USG Representatives. “OneUSG” is a new University System hub for all USG retirees. GSU has been an ADP institution. These ADP systems had small PR units, so different institutions were getting different information. Now, there is a centralized website (OneUSG) with correct information; and a Call Center that only covers the USG and gives the same information to all callers. USG retirees will need to register on this website, and add new contact information or update what is there. They should check their beneficiary information for accuracy. AON also has a new system in which all should be sure to register. We don’t know now what our new HRA will be like.

Tabatha Michel gave us a University update. So far, we have about $42,000 granted to the Just-In-Time (JIT) Fund. The Development Office is planning how the fund might attract a broader base of support, possibly by appealing to all the Deans. Don said that we need our Association to be more involved in the JIT Fund to keep it going into the future. Board members should consider how emeriti can engage with their different colleges, and what might be granted besides gifts. Tabatha added that this August, Georgia State conferred 10,000 degrees—the most ever. Enrollment has been up, and so have the number of degrees conferred.

Charles Williams suggested EA website issues that need to be resolved, such as including more health and financial information. He added that any financial section should be informational only, rather than being promotional for the University. He also suggested that a fitness section should be emphasized.

Dave Ewert reported on GA-HERO, a group of leaders of retiree organizations that meets twice a year. The date of the next Fall meeting is uncertain, as well as whether it will meet in Macon. But its program is set, and interested members may get it from Dave. He encouraged all to come, and said that all state schools are invited.
Rosemary Cox reported on the PC Retirees Association. On August 16 there will be a quarterly meeting. Don reminded us of an event of the Georgia State Alumni Association Senior Brunch and Learn: on August 3 there will be a SunTrust Stadium tour.

Don said that he would be sending Board members suggestions regarding our Board Bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Gallant, Secretary.