Emeriti Association Coordinating Board Meeting  
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017 – 12:00 p.m. 
225 25 Park Place

Staff: Cindy Forrest, Katie Layton, Tabatha Michel, Kim Clifford.  
Not present: Missy Cody, Rankin Cooter, Valerie Fennell, Lynn Hogue, Robert McDonough, Alfred McWilliams, Anne Page Mosby.  
Guest: Dean Wade Weast, College of the Arts.

Don Ratajczak called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and introduced Dr. Wade Weast, Dean of the College of the Arts, who gave an overview of his College and its connections to the Atlanta community. With its three departments of Art and Design, Music, and Film/Media/Theater, the college has 2219 students.

Approval of Meeting Agenda, Consent Agenda, and Minutes. The Board unanimously approved the meeting and consent agendas. The minutes were amended to add the recent information that the Perimeter College (PC) general process for nominating and approving emeriti was presented to the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee last year as part of PC’s P&T document. It is identical to the wording in the University Guidelines, and so may be followed. However, Rosemary Cox noted that there is no chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee which is working on PC’s specific emeriti process: namely, one by which the home department recommends retirees (selection standards, requirements for qualification, possible recommenders, etc.). There is now a backlog of two years of retired faculty who wish to be considered for this ranking but are now in limbo. The motion was moved and seconded to make Cox our Board representative to the PC Faculty Affairs Committee, and unanimously approved.

Chair’s Report. Don said that there is no formal Chair’s Report this time, but one will be submitted from now on. He added that instead of giving the Board his proposal for amended Bylaws as suggested at our last meeting, he wished to discuss possible ideas for changes first.

One is the need for better communication between our emeriti. We need a list of emeriti email addresses that is available to the Board, our own email list within the Emeriti Association. Don asked how we could get a current master-list which we could edit each year. Kim Clifford said that she will check with Vice-President Massey and the Foundation to see if we could have our own master-list of emeriti. The issue is one of confidentiality. She added that we have about 275 email addresses of local members.

Don also stated that we need to get more members of the Emeriti Association actively involved than just the Board. Perhaps we could consider past methods of involvement. Tabatha noted that our different events are geared to different audiences. Teryl Frey, chair of the Activities Committee, restated the gist of his report, that there have been two
activities which combined our field trips with those of the Senior Alumni since we approved this combining in May: a tour of the Human Rights Museum on June 7 and a tour of the Braves new SunTrust Park on August 3. Both had very low attendance. He noted that he did not receive an invitation to the latter event, although he is the Activities Committee chair. He only heard of the June 7 event through members of the Senior Alumni he knew. Better and more widespread publicity seems needed.

Kim stated that she had sent out 3 email announcements to emeriti about our Authors Series presentation on September 18; and so far 15 have replied that they would attend. It was suggested that perhaps notifications could also be sent to the chairs of the speakers’ departments to forward to their faculty, for a wider audience. We need to better recruit emeriti for our events.

Some suggested that a way of getting emeriti more involved in the Association might be to offer a University service such as mentoring of students. But this would need organization, and should not be simply hit-or-miss.

Missy Cody sent word that there was no September report from the Nominations Committee because their business was completed at the March 8 meeting. She could not give her formal report on Health Benefits since she is absent because of Hurricane Irma: no power and visiting relatives who have evacuated from St. Simon’s Island. The Health Benefits program will be given on October 23 for all emeriti.

Leonard Teel announced that his deadline for copy for the Winter-Spring edition of Emerities is Oct. 1, and asked that any materials be sent to him as soon as possible.

Kim gave a University update. We have a record 3900 freshmen enrolled. The GSU Research funding is also a record, at $147 million. She updated us on the JIT Fund. Solicitation for it will be assisted by the Foundation Office. The Honors College needs our support to be ongoing, and more than just funding.

Don suggested possible changes to our Bylaws relating to our Committees. The standing committees need to have their members specified, and their charges. We need a functioning Communications Committee with a chair and several additional members, and a Nominations Committee with the members specified (former chairs? past committee chairs?). We need some provision for Board members to keep serving on committees after they leave the Board.

Discussion turned to our annual Health Benefits Event. HR organizes it, and usually there are about 75 attendees. Don will address it this year as our Chair, and will present materials on the Emeriti Endowment Fund as well as the Just-In-Time Fund.

Dave Ewert gave a HERO report. Its November 17 meeting (the 15th HERO meeting) will be held in Macon. The problems our Emeriti Association is having are common, and HERO can suggest possible solutions. He hopes that the keynote speaker at the November 17 meeting will be from GSU.
Don said that he would be sending Board members his proposal for amending our Bylaws as well as suggestions for recruiting new emeriti by our next meeting in November, and asked that Board member send him any further suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Gallant, Secretary.