

ERA Board Meeting Minutes

1:30 Thursday Aug. 5, 2021

Wick Center

Board Members in Attendance:

Kim Hachiya, Sue Gildersleeve, Linda Major, Pat Crews, Rita Kean, Vi Schroeder, Don Weeks, Julie Johnson, Earl Hawkey, Al Stark. Regrets were received from Dora Dill and Doug Jose.

Tom Hoegemeyer regretted both that he could not attend and that he was in the emergency room following a ladder mishap. Jim Griesen also sent regrets that he was unable to attend.

Memory Moments (since May 13, 2021):

Charles Chuck Piper, College of Journalism and Mass Communications; Ad/PR

Paul Johnsgard, School of Biological Sciences

Carolyn Kay Beltz, widow of Rod Dillon, Electrical Engineering

Martha Lynn Nickol, spouse of Brent Nickol, School of Biological Sciences

Leendert Keerstin, College of Engineering

Rodney Soukup, College of Engineering

Reginald "Reg" Gartner, College of Dentistry

Buren "Skip" Thomas, Mathematics

Alfred "Bud" Pagel; College of Journalism and Mass Communications; Newswriting and Reporting

Clarence "Gene" Frederick, Transportation Services (widower of the late Joan Frederick, Agronomy)

Ellen Kapperman, Housing

John Bernthal, Education and Human Sciences/Barkley Center

Eunice May Green Buck, University Health Center

Additions (learned of since Aug. 5):

Margaret Griesen, wife of James Griesen, VC emeritus, Student Affairs

James Ray, husband of Rachelle Ray, Student Affairs

Approval of minutes May 11, 2021

Deferred

Committee Reports

Awards: Lloyd Ambrosius (Pat Crews reported in Lloyd's absence)

There were 2 nominations for Wisherd service awards. Alan Moeller will receive the award for service to the community; and Charlyne Berens will receive the award for service to the university. Pat reported that the committee does not inform the nominee in advance of their nomination.

There were no applications for Wisherd Research Grant Awards this year. Individuals must apply for those awards personally because they must describe the research project, creative activity or community project for which they are requesting funds.

Budget: Earl Hawkey

Earl reported that the organization is solvent. He received an invoice from Dan Shattil for expenses for his Wisherd award project from 2020 (Daily Nebraskan Hall of Fame). It was proposed by Earl that the association fund the 2020 creative activity grant in the amount of \$1,315 from the association bank account rather than the Foundation Wisherd fund. This will allow us to directly reimburse the University for the expenditure rather than creating a taxable payment to the grant recipient. We voted to pay this out of our substantial checking account rather than the foundation accounts. Kim asked Earl to see if Dan might send a photo of the Daily Nebraskan Hall of Fame wall that we might publish in the newsletter. Don Weeks moved approval; Pat Crews offered the second. Motion approved.

Membership: Al Stark

Al reported we increased our membership by 40 new members since 2020. Half of the new members are emeritus faculty and half are retirees. Al encouraged ERA members to invite retirees to join the organization.

Engagement: Linda Major and Kim Hachiya

Husker Pantry: A new pantry is starting on East Campus and pantry staff are actively recruiting volunteers. Kim sent a notice to members soliciting their involvement.

Undergraduate Mentoring Program: Linda reported that the mentoring program has changed substantially and is no longer affiliated with Teammates but is still scheduled to launch as a pilot project. The ERA will no longer be paying them for background checks as we had agreed to do under the Teammates rubric. Linda sent an email to the membership soliciting volunteers. Lauren Gayer, Student Affairs Marketing and Communications Director, is willing to update and maintain a webpage for our website describing volunteer opportunities. It was suggested that Linda and Vi work together to combine service opportunities on a single webpage. Linda and Vi will partner with Lauren Gayer to complete the project.

Commencement: Kim reported that Commencement volunteers were still needed.

OLLI: Rita Kean

Rita reported the OLLI Open House will be Aug. 12 from noon – 4:30 pm. Over the summer, a new MOU was signed between ERA and OLLI regarding our members being able to take classes.

General Meetings: Pat Crews

Pat outlined upcoming meetings (see dates below). The Sept. 23 meeting, hosted by the Foundation, will showcase our award winners. Chancellor Green and ERA President Kim Hachiya will speak. Pat, Kim and Al will touch base with Denise Dodd at the Foundation about the guest list. Invitations will be sent to the entire ERA membership list. We are hopeful that the increase in reported COVID cases will not require us to move the meeting to a virtual setting. The event is scheduled to be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

Tours: Al Stark

Al is hoping to resume tours in the spring, including visits to Husker Vision and the Dinsdale Commons.

Social Committee: Jim Griesen or Jane Zatechka

Don Weeks reported on behalf of the committee that coffee chats will resume. Another one is planned for the deck at Wilderness Ridge because the one in June was so well attended, and another at Nebraska Innovation Campus with its director, Dan Duncan. Dates TBA.

Old Business:

1. History files:
 - a. Don Weeks asked whether we wanted to do something to recognize our 60th anniversary this fall. The organization was established in 1961. ERA records/files are stored in campus archives. It was decided that the Board would celebrate this event with desserts at the November meeting.
2. Email access for family of deceased members:
 - a. Don Weeks and Kim Hachiya met with Mike Zeleny and Heath Tuttle, UNL's CIO this summer to discuss our concerns. All agreed that a solution was necessary. Heath will query his Big 10 counterparts. Kim asked the Big 10 retirees' group for best practices. Several responded that this is problem for them as well and they would be interested in learning how others resolve the issue. Two universities said there is some concern that their administration turned email over to Microsoft, which seems to sweep the emails too quickly. This will be topic of discussion when the Big 10 retirees group resume their Zoom meetings in the fall. A plan for moving forward, based on best practices, will be developed and presented to all involved.
3. Summer reports:
 - a. The June Social at Wilderness Ridge attracted 60+ members. The committee is looking to resume the member socials soon. Time and date to be announced.

New Business:

1. Memorials
 - a. A memorial in honor of Dr. John Bernthal was discussed. It was agreed that memorials for former Board members will be made by individuals, not the organization.
2. Regent Jim Pillen's Anti-CRT Resolution
 - a. Kim sent an email to the membership alerting them to the pending resolution. She reported receiving two responses indicating members favored Dr. Pillen's motion, which is to be considered Aug. 13. One of these accused her of "using university funds to politic and copied a state senator." Kim replied that we are taking a neutral stand, that her email was sent and generated using a non-university account, and that she noted the person contacting her had used a university account. He did not respond. In total, she received 10 responses from people thanking us for the information and one who said we needed to take a public stand. Since our action, the campus chancellors and NU president, several student groups and a group of athletes have publicly stated their opposition to Pillen's resolution. Doug Jose got a very warm response from a regent outlining her opposition to Pillen's resolution and indicating her intention to vote against it should it be placed on the agenda
3. Newsletter
 - a. Julie Johnson announced that the deadline for materials to be included in the fall newsletter is Aug. 13. Julie hopes to "publish" it electronically Sept. 1 or nearabouts. She circulated a sign-up sheet for luncheon speaker reports and brainstormed additional ideas with the committee.
4. Engagement
 - a. Kim and Linda reported on volunteer opportunities at the new Husker Pantry located on East Campus and the undergraduate mentoring program scheduled to begin this fall. See the complete report under committee reports.
5. Fall Luncheon
 - a. The fall luncheon is scheduled for September 23 at Nebraska Innovation Campus. Pat is coordinating with Denise Todd. Denise emailed last week for more information about the invitation list. Based on our collective recollection, we estimate that 200 guests attend the 2019 meeting at NIC. See the complete report under committee reports.
6. Social Committee
 - a. The members discussed resuming coffee socials and tours. It was suggested to include a visit to the new Dinsdale Family Learning Commons (formerly CY Thompson Library) as part of an upcoming meeting.
 - b. Optional post-luncheon tours of the Nebraska East Union (October) and Dinsdale Family Learning Commons (December) will be offered.
7. Member and officer vacancies
 - a. The Board will need to recruit new board members to fill up to 2-3 open board seats. A nomination for president elect is also needed. Kim, Don and Pat agreed to meet briefly after the meeting to identify potential nominations.
8. Fall Calendar
 - a. UNL resumes classes August 23
 - b. September Meetings: **NOTE CALENDAR CHANGE**
 - i. *Because both Kim and Pat are scheduled to be out of town September 9, it was decided to schedule the Board meeting a week earlier, on Thursday, September 2 at the Wick Center beginning at 1:30 pm. UDPATE – due to increasing cases of COVID, the board meeting will be held virtually.*
 - ii. General Membership meeting at NIC – September 23
 - c. October Meetings:
 - i. Executive Committee meeting – Tuesday Oct. 5
 - ii. ERA Board meeting – Tuesday Oct. 12
 - iii. UNL Fall Break – Monday and Tuesday, October 18-19
 - iv. General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, Oct. 19 at Nebraska East Union; speakers: Chuck Hibberd, UNL, and Jeff Yost Nebraska Community Foundation. The 2022-2023 slate of new board members and officers will be announced. An optional post-meeting tour of the newly renovated East Union will be offered. Catering provided by Premiere. Members are permitted to bring their own food.

- d. November
 - i. Executive Committee meeting – Thursday Nov. 4
 - ii. ERA Board meeting – Thursday Nov. 11
 - iii. General Membership meeting – Tuesday Nov. 16 at Lancaster County Extension Office at CherryCreek. Speaker is Paul Read, Nebraska Wines and Vines. New slate of board members and officers will be voted on at the November meeting. Those in attendance will toast our 60-year history and celebrate with dessert. Le Quartier will cater. I believe at this meeting we vote on the new board and elect officers.
- e. December
 - i. Executive Committee – Tuesday, Dec. 7
 - ii. ERA Board meeting (planning retreat) – Tuesday Dec. 14
 - iii. General Membership meeting – Thursday Dec. 16; Claire Stewart, University Libraries, the meeting is scheduled for the Nebraska East Union. An optional post-luncheon tour of the newly renovated Dinsdale Family Learning Commons (formerly CY Thompson Library) will be offered.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Major