

ERA Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1:30PM (via Zoom)

Called to order by President Kim Hachiya

Members Present: **Kim Hachiya, Pat Crews, Earl Hawkey, Julie Johnson, Alfred Stark, Don Weeks, Rita Kean, Doug Jose, Linda Major, Vi Schroeder, Sue Gildersleeve, Lloyd Ambrosius, Tom Hoegemeyer**

Absent: Dora Dill, Chuck Hibberd, James Griesen, Rita Weeks, Charlene Berens,

Memory Moments

Ralph Thorp; Teachers College
Nicole Frerichs; CASNR Dean's office
Norman Krivosha; Law
Mark Koller, spouse of Rebecca "Becky" Koller, Central Administration
Carolyn Johnsen Fowler, Journalism and NET; wife of David Fowler, math ed
Barry Moore; Athletics
Shirley Ebeler; International Admissions

Minutes of Board Meeting for Jan14th, 2021

Approved by acclamation

Committee/Activities Reports

Awards; Lloyd Ambrosius—Full committee names plus an article will be posted on the ERA website, and he is writing an article for the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report; Earl Hawkey—We are in great financial shape, has sent out dues notices to members, full report was e-mailed to board members, and it is included in these minutes.

OLLI; Rita Kean—Bob Michl is trying to hire an assistant coordinator, and has a temporary assistant working with him at present. Unsure of closing date for applications, but you should contact him if interested.

Membership; Al Stark—Thus far, we have 127 renewals, 2 new members, and 2 members who asked to be removed from the membership list. Confident there is more renewals coming in the next few weeks. Step 8 (those who have not responded to membership renewal for 2 years) consists of 75 people presently, and those will be removed.

Website; Al Stark—nothing to report.

Bylaws/Policies, Benefits committees had no activities to report.

Tours; have been suspended pending end of Covid19 pandemic restrictions.

Coffee Chats; It was suggested that we meet virtually, to discuss UN-L Covid19 policies.

Newsletter; Julie Johnson—She is in progress of writing the newsletter, will get it out by next week.

Speakers; Pat Crews—Chuck Hibberd will speak on UN-L disaster response in 2019 and 2020 at February 16 meeting. Don Wilhite will speak on climate change at March meeting. Judy Wu-Smart will speak on bees (and likely the Mead environmental disaster) at the April meeting.

Locations for meetings: Tentatively, we could meet at Nebraska East Union for October 19th meeting, it is reserved, and we could purchase food from the regular dining hall line, not have it catered. The Lancaster County Extension Center is open for fall meetings, but no reservations have been made there.

It was suggest that we get someone to talk on Nebraska wineries, perhaps someone from The Safe House at Syracuse, (which Don and Carol Rundquist own with their son) or perhaps Paul Read.

Zoom Meeting Capacity Al Stark noted that we had a peak of 94 on our January Zoom meeting, and our licensed capacity is 100. Discussion followed on our options. It would cost us \$50 per year to up the licensed capacity to 300???. Al suggested that we might leave Zoom license where it is and add a Youtube option to allow more people (he believes it would be free of cost). Kim suggested that Facebook Live would be another option to allow people to view the meetings. It was suggested that we leave the decision to Al's judgement.

Kim Hachiya noted that a video tour of the new Dinsdale Learning Center library facility was available on-line. We will show it at the Feb. 16 general membership meeting.

Retention of @unl.edu e-mails; Don Weeks—reported that he had contacted Mke Zeleny, but had received no response, likely due to management of Covid situations.

Student Retention Project; Linda Majors—noted that she had spoken with Amy Goodburn and Ashley . Suggested that a post-secondary Teammates format would be a good starting point. She also noted that UN-L might be interested in having the ERA connect with the Honors Program, focused on inter-generational dialog. The University of Minnesota apparently has a similar program. ERA members could offer first-hand accounts of real/ongoing issues. There has been an expansion at YiaYia's, and such projects could move into the community. These could be similar to OLLI classes, but include Honors and upper class students. This sort of mentoring/sharing fits their desires/needs. There is a wide range of opportunities –one time, short/moderate involvement periods. Linda is working on details.

Linda reported that Connie Boehm with Big Red Resilience said she has 2 immediate needs:

- 1) the Husker Pantry is helping with food needs of over 200 students/week, and is growing. They need a) volunteers to pick up food, and b) people to work with students in the pantry.
- 2) Establish a more vigorous "Recovery group" . . Need sponsors & people to interact with these students. Husker Hall is being used for Covid19 quarantine/isolation and the goal is to use it as a residence hall for students who are in recovery from alcohol or substance abuse.

Linda suggested that she will develop "job descriptions" for the mentoring and Connie Boehm's areas of need.

Several members commented that there was no place on the “GLOW BIG RED” website to contribute to Big Red Resilience. At least it is hard to find on the website, Linda said she will find links.

Treasurer’s Accounts re: UofN Foundation; Earl Hawkey—Earl reported that the Wisherd Awards fund is about where we want it to be, and we presently have a relatively large “spendable balance”, ca. \$7500. We have an ERA Fund open, none of which has been spent (but amounts could be spent sending delegates to the Big 10 retirees meetings).

Earl also feels that our checking account balance is larger than it needs to be, suggested that we transfer some of it to our savings account. We could use it for special projects, and it is easy to transfer between checking and savings.

Lloyd Ambrosius suggested that we give Earl the authority to transfer funds to the savings account as he sees appropriate. Don Weeks asked “What balance do we need to keep?” Earl suggested that about \$6000 is about what we need.

Don Weeks moved that “As a consensus of the ERA board, we allow the treasurer, Earl Hawkey to move funds among our accounts to meet our spending needs and targets, and to maximize our returns on our funds.” Rita Kean seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Some discussion and speculation followed on Ronnie Green’s “State of the University Address”, and Kim gave us the time and date (Monday, February 15 at 2 p.m.) and noted where it would be carried.

There being no further business, Kim adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,
Tom Hoegemeyer