



**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

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**ETSU Retirees Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 29, 2009**

Board members present: Dave Benner, Judith Bragg, Bill Fisher, Jerry Gehre, Ted Hughes, Dan Johnson, Harold Johnson, Betty Moore, Willene Paxton, Betty Tester, and Keith Turkett.

Staff from the Office of Human Resources: Debi Frakes

Guests: Randy Byington, Ken Herd

Judith Bragg called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Guest presentation:** Bill Fisher introduced Randy Byington as COO for the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Byington discussed issues related to sharing office space with ETSURA: He is usually in the office on Mondays; the Senate has several student workers who will be using the office; the lock on the door has been replaced. The Senate would like to use the ETSURA computer and printer, and we agreed that was OK if they were used for Senate work; Faculty Senate will buy paper and printer cartridges. We were reminded that the computer in that office was obtained from surplus property and is not maintained by OIT.

**Minutes** of the August meeting were approved.

**Executive Committee:** Judith Bragg, chair

Judy described the September 9<sup>th</sup> press conference introducing JC Senior Synergy.

The board was reminded of two meetings relevant to Johnson City Senior Center issues: 29 September at Millennium Centre, and 5 October at Bank of Tennessee.

Ken Herd reported that ETSURA has arranged to purchase 50 Portable Health Profile flash drives; Debi Frakes said the check would be available 30 September, and the drives should be delivered two weeks later. Ken asked that Board members commit to purchasing theirs right away and then plan to attend workshops, before our 6 November Annual Luncheon, at the College of Medicine Library to get help entering information into them. All present agreed to cooperate.

Judy reported that those who helped with Move-in Day had received a thank-you letter from Housing as well as a card signed by many of the students we helped.

**Membership Committee:** Ethel Garrity, chair.

Ethel was not present, but Debi Frakes reported that membership had not changed since August: 346 members.

**Finance Committee:** Betty Tester, chair

The September Financial Statement shows: \$2,540 in Operating Funds; \$15,240 in Life Membership; \$133,165 in Scholarship Endowment Investment; \$10,836 in Endowment Interest Income; and \$630 in ETSURA Special Projects.

**Finance Committee continued:**

A \$3000 reduction in the Scholarship Endowment account that we questioned in August was the result of corrections due to poor investment experiences this year. Betty says she understands!

**Program Committee:** Jerry Gehre, chair

About 45 people attended the Eat & Chat on 15 September, including two from our JC Senior Synergy partners the Alliance for Continued Learning.

The Annual Luncheon Meeting will be on Friday, 6 November. The Culp Center Ballroom facilities have been booked. Food Service has been notified; they'll charge \$5.50 per person, and we've decided to ask \$7.00 per ticket to cover expenses for guests, etc. Ken Herd and Brunhilde Tober-Meyer will present a program about Portable Health Profile flash drives that will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Judy Bragg said we need 6 nominees to be on the ballot for 4 Board positions. Dave Benner asked for volunteers to serve on his Nominating Committee. Betty Tester, Dan Johnson, and Ted Hughes volunteered. Keith Turkett agreed to stand for re-election for a second term; Dan Johnson declined the opportunity. Dan suggested we contact members of the Communications Committee for potential nominees.

**Communications Committee:** Nancy Stevenson, chair

No report.

**University/Community Service Committee:** Betty Moore, chair

We have collected almost \$700 toward purchasing a bench.

Brunhilde Tober-Meyer has asked Betty to urge ETSURA volunteers to report the hours they work on various projects, but Betty finds it hard to persuade people to do so. She intends to track the number of people who volunteer, but not the hours they work. The Board consensus was to not report hours.

**Liaison Committee:** Bill Fisher, chair

About 15 October, we should receive a letter about Dental Insurance for Retirees.

Active employees have been asked to verify dependents, and about 3000 dependents have been deleted as a result of that effort. Several Board members acknowledged that they had been asked to verify that dependents were eligible.

The TBR Chancellor will not retire, and will remain in office through 2010.

Bill Fisher and Jerry Gehre will attend a meeting of higher education retirees' association representatives at Fall Creek Falls State Park on 1-2 November. They will share information about JC Senior Synergy, CHARMS, and PHP flash drives.

Bill distributed a Position Paper on the Reorganization of Higher Education in Tennessee by Tennessee University Faculty Senates that had been approved 34-10 by the ETSU Faculty Senate. The recommendations for centralizing several administrative functions were roundly criticized by many Board members.

**Additional Comments/Reports:**

Ted Hughes commented on the Fall 2009 *UT Retirees Newsletter*.

**Adjournment:**

Judith Bragg adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan M. Johnson