



ETSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President David Kalwinsky. Members present: Gail Burleson, Don Carter, Tod Jablonski, Mike Miyamoto, Priscilla Ramsey, Judith Story, Jeff Wardeska, Jerry Gehre, and John Hancock. Members absent – Jack Rhoton. Diana McClay and Krista Richesin represented the Office of Human Resources.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the May 30, 2017 were approved and accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) **Executive Committee:** Dave Kalwinsky announced that John Hancock has accepted the nomination for membership on the ETSURA Board. There will be five vacancies at the end of the current term at the end of December. Several names have been suggested for nomination and will be contacted. Eighteen financial aid scholarships were awarded at \$500 each totaling \$9,000.
- b) **Communications and Membership Committees:** Chair Judy Story announced that the committee met and activities are planned. Fourteen new non-member retirees have been contacted with letters of invitation to join ETSURA. An additional 27 new retirees will also receive letters in the next few weeks. The Committee met since the last meeting, and Judy presented some of the suggestions discussed. Gail Burleson is assisting by contacting members who are ill. Jerry Gehre stated that the Senior Center in Johnson City might be presenting seminars on Medicare changes this year and recommended that the ETSURA join with them. He will contact them for information. Currently, there are 347 members of ETSURA.
- a) **Finance Committee:** Jeff Wardeska reported for the Finance Committee. As of August 17th: Operating Fund Account – \$7,118.94; Life Membership Account Fund - \$20,325.32; Scholarship Endowment Investment Account Fund - \$205,437.36; Endowment Interest Income Account Fund - \$21,801.32, ETSURA Special Projects Fund- \$271.08 for a total of \$254,954.02. From Eastman Credit Union, \$2,500 was donated for Annual Meeting in October and is deposited in the Operating Fund. Representatives from ECU will be recognized at Annual Meeting for their generosity.

- b) **Program Committee:** Chairs Mike Miyamoto and Don Carter reminded members that the next Eat n Chat would be September 21 at 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Corral with Jeremy Ross from the President's Office as speaker. The annual picnic date was held on June 16th in the community room at Food City, and 82 members attended. Anita DeAngelis was the speaker who presented on the architectural plans and functions of the new performing arts center. President Noland gave a brief state of the University report, particularly the construction of the new football stadium that is on schedule. Wilsie Bishop was also in attendance. Six door prizes were raffled off much to the delight of all in attendance. Dave Kalwinsky will continue to post email reminders to ETSURA members of all upcoming events. The Annual Meeting will be held on November 3rd at the JC Country Club. Grant Summers will speak on the renovation of the Old Mill. Dr. Noland will be invited. Heath Hill, an ETSURA scholarship recipient, will perform music selections. It was voted and approved to give him a \$100 honorarium. Heather Killmeyer, Assistant Professor of Music at ETSU, will do an oboe recital as well. Jerry Gehre agreed to do the invocation. Again, we will do door prizes and several items were suggested. Before, during, and after pictures of the Old Mill are planned as table decorations adorned with toy construction trucks. Dave and Judy will visit the JCCC and pick out the menu. The fee remains at \$15 per person as of now.
- c) **University/Community Service Committee:** Chair Jerry Gehre reported that nine volunteers assisted with move-in day at Governors Hall on August 24th. Dates for the Second Harvest workday is the second Wednesday of every month.
- d) **Liaison Committee:** Priscilla Ramsey attended the all-day retreat on August 22nd at the Carnegie Hotel for Faculty Senate, Dr. Susan Epps presiding. Fred Alsop, faculty representative on the Board of Trustees, reminded everyone that Board of Trustee meetings are always open. Next meeting is September 8th. Dr. Noland reported that there were 2,100 new freshmen this fall, a significant increase, who have higher entrance scores than previously. Retention rates also increased to 77.8%, but our goal is 85%. The budget is balanced, and faculty and staff will receive a 2% raise. September 8th will also be the groundbreaking ceremony for the new performing arts center. Building 60 is about to open on the VA grounds, called the Interprofessional Education and Research Center. Next summer, the Culp Center will close for renovation and all offices there relocated. Lamb Hall will also undergo renovation. Talks are underway to acquire the Millennium Center as an academic building, and the Tipton Gallery will be moved to the new Old Mill building. The MSHA/Wellmont merger is still under review, and if it is not approved, the ETSU Medical School may not have enough space for medical student clinical experiences, a major concern. Last, President Noland wants a performance evaluation and is looking into a mechanism to do that. The remainder of the retreat was getting acquainted with Faculty Senate committees and other members. The first meeting is September 11th in the Forum Room.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Ramsey, Secretary