

**CSUN ARF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
WEDNESDAY, May 12, 2021 (via Zoom)

Board members present: Shan Barkataki, Daniel Blake, Timothy Fox, Leland Gassert, Catherine Jeppson, Robert Kiddoo, Sharon Klein, Virginia Lussier, Ann Perkins, Phyllis Russell, Cheryl Spector, Joel Zeitlin.

Board members absent: Pamela Bourgeois (excused), John Clendenning (excused), Pat Nichelson (excused), Eugene Turner (excused).

Monthly Business

1. Call to order: Timothy Fox called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.
2. Formal Adoption of the Agenda: MSP to adopt.
3. Approval of the Minutes, April 14, 2021: Cheryl Spector. MSP to approve the minutes.
4. President's Announcements:
  - a. The ARF Award winners have been chosen; checks and certificates have been sent. Each winner has submitted a bio, a photo, and an abstract; these will be published in the July ARF Notes.
  - b. We are using the new ARF Board majordomo list for communications between Board members.
  - c. Four Board members have been excused from today's meeting for various reasons.
  - d. CSUN is requiring all email account users to change their email password and to activate the new-to-CSUN security app Duo. Tim will forward the information to all ARF members.
  - e. The ARF representative on the Faculty Senate next year will once again be Diane Schwartz.
  - f. At the ERFSA spring meeting, Tim learned that membership is declining among retirement groups across the country. ERFSA suggests that groups like ARF work with the campus alumni association and development office to boost membership.
  - g. Tim thanked the Board members for their active participation this year. The Board responded with a cheer for Tim.
5. Board Member Announcements: the Board will be sending a card and a plant with our wishes for a speedy recovery to Board member Pat Nichelson.

Reports

1. Treasurer: Dan Blake. Dan noted that the expenditures shown in his written report reflect the increased amounts for the ARF Memorial Award (now \$2500 each). We are not currently earning significant interest, but we also have no other significant expenses (no brunch, etc.). As of May 12, our total account balance is \$151,571.18 (after funding the ARF awards). He recommends that we alert members to the newly raised award amount when we solicit membership renewals. In discussion, Bob asked us to consider the issues of risk vs. return if we invest our money. Joel suggested that we consider fee-free investments (like Fidelity Funds), investing perhaps 45% of our money in an index fund (which would earn a better return than a savings account), and keeping the other 55% in an account that will not

be affected by market volatility. Shan noted that we are not aiming for speculative investments. Dan suggested that we wait several months to see what the market is going to do so that we don't discover, too late, that we invested at the peak. After further discussion and a motion that was later withdrawn, the Board agreed to let the ad hoc group (Dan, Joel, Shan, Bob, and Cathy) decide on a sensible timeline and some investment alternatives. Dan will send a questionnaire to the Board to solicit our opinions.

2. Program Chair: Sharon Klein. As reflected in Sharon's written report, there will be no picnic this year. She suggested that ARF members could still gather for a June program and offered some suggestions. In discussion, the Board decided that people are too likely to be traveling by then, and that hosting a social event in September would be better. Bob will continue to monitor campus progress towards reopening, with a focus on the Arbor Grill and its misting system. In addition to already-scheduled programs for fall--Kristen Walker (Marketing) in September; CSUN President Erika Beck in October; Terri Lisagor in February), program possibilities for the coming year include Harold Goldwhite talking about ERFSA, membership demographics, etc.; Claire White (Religious Studies) on the cognitive science of religion; and possibly a Zoom program with the Guide Dogs of America. For the April 2022 Field Trip, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts is a possibility. We will have a January banquet, but we won't know where until the campus begins to reopen. Finally, other program ideas include presentations on one of the new large CSUN grants (all centering on students in STEM/STEAM).
3. Membership Chair: Phyllis Russell. Phyllis reported that she sent out membership invitations to 50 newly retired faculty last week. She has received one "yes" and one "maybe."
4. Editor *ARF Notes*: Ann Perkins. Ann noted that the July edition of *ARF Notes* is now a regular part of the annual cycle. Her deadline for this issue will be around June 23; she will send out an email with a precise date later. We have been catching up on remembrance articles, which is good, but they have begun to compete for space with regular features of the *Notes*. Tim recommended that we hold remembrance authors to the 300-word limit in our new guidelines. Ann asked that we add the University Archives to the *ARF Notes* snail-mail database. Tim will do this once he has the address.
5. Historian: Virginia Lussier. Ginny has been assembling and refining the Remembrance materials (the policy, the guidelines, further resources), with copy-editing help from Cheryl. Given Ann's report, Ginny is concerned that we may not have sufficient space in the *ARF Notes* to include all of this material. She has also been working on By-Laws changes to accommodate the new policy and its committee, and she will send out the latest draft for review by the Board.
6. Webmaster: Gene Turner: Tim reported that Gene had emailed to say there had been no changes to the website since the last Board meeting.
7. Members-At-Large:
  - a. Cheryl mentioned that the *Sundial* published a post on its Instagram feed regarding the loss of Donald Salper, Professor Emeritus, Communication Studies. She was reminded to send this information to Pam (as past president of ARF) and to Cynthia Rawitch (Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, & Communication) as per the Remembrance Policy. Discussion ensued: the Board needs to decide how to disseminate articles once they are written, and who should approve the writing of the article for a non-member of ARF in the first place. The current version of the policy calls for a decision by the Remembrance Committee, which might be an undue burden on that group. It was therefore

MSP: to revise section II.2. of the policy\* so that the chair makes the decision rather than the committee: "...at the discretion of the Remembrance Committee Chair..."

Tim asked that Ginny distribute the final copy of the policy to the Board via email, and in response to Ginny's inquiry, gave 5/12/21 as the appropriate date for marking the latest by-laws change.

\*For context, here is the revised paragraph of the policy:

At the discretion of the Remembrance Committee chair, other deceased members of the CSUN faculty may be similarly honored. These include retired faculty members who were not current ARF members and those who made significant contributions to CSUN but died prior to retirement.

- b. Bob noted that the Board has traditionally kept open a date in August for a tentative meeting, which we may need this year if the campus begins to open. The members agreed to hold the second Wednesday, August 11, for this tentative meeting. The (new) ARF president will let us know later in the summer if we are actually going to meet.
8. Faculty Senate Report: Tim reminded members that any questions should be directed to Diane Schwartz, who sends these written reports to us after each Senate meeting.

### Old Business

1. The 2021-22 ARF Board Election Slate will be sent to members for a vote at the end of May. The new Board will take office on July 1, 2021.

### New Business

1. Membership Renewals – Interest Groups Impact/Problem: Phyllis explained that the ARF membership form always lists our various interest groups. But when a recent new member asked to join one of the groups, the response from the group was that they were at capacity and could not accommodate the new member. In addition, some of our groups are no longer meeting, including the lunch group, the birding group, and the needle group. In discussion, it was suggested that we remove the birding and needle groups from the list.  
Other suggestions:
  - a. The large groups (films and books) might split to make room for new members.
  - b. Every group should have an informal leader to organize meetings and so on.
  - c. We could consider starting new groups: gardening? Or painting?
  - d. We could rotate group memberships so that after two years, you would need to move on.
  - e. Existing group members could be asked to start or advise a new group.
  - f. Board members could start a new group.
  - g. The photography club used to be quite active.
  - h. There was a theatre group in the past.
2. Declining Membership – How to Fix ??? Tim mentioned that John Clendenning (president-elect) is planning to form a Membership Committee in the fall. He suggested we postpone this discussion until then.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Spector, Secretary