

January and February ARF Board Minutes

CSUN ARF BOARD MINUTES ZOOM Meeting JANUARY 10, 2025

PRESENT.

Diane Schwartz, Cathy Jeppson, Patrizia Miller, Tim Fox, Dan Blake, Gene Turner, David Fox, Steven Stepanek, and Bob Kiddoo.

EXCUSED.

EXCUSED: Cynthia Rawitz, Pat Nicholson, Ann Perkins, Michael Barrett, Cynthia Desrochers, Sharon Klein.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

President-Chair Diane Schwartz called the meeting to order at 10:20.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA.

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF November 8, 2024.

Two corrections were noted:

1. Under Historian Report: The name Bob Kiddoo should be corrected to read Bob Gohstand.
2. Under Old Business: The name Bob Kiddoo should be corrected to read Bob Gohstand.

MSP to approve the Minutes with those two corrections (unanimous)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President's Announcements

- a. ARF Board Meetings for Spring 2025
Feb 14 ZOOM; Mar 14 OCC; Apr 11 ZOOM; May 9 ZOOM, all at 10:30 am.
- b. ARF General Meeting and Picnic; Sat June 7 (Arbor Grill) at 11 am.
- c. Valentine's Day ARF Lunch now scheduled for Feb 13 from noon to 3:00 at Buon Gusto Ristorante in Mission Hills.

REPORTS

1. Treasurer. Cathy Jeppson

Cathy had circulated the Treasurer's Report showing the Account Balances and Income and Expense Flows as of November 30th. She noted the positive contribution of our CDs' interest dividends to our income flow. She also reviewed some of the Expense items and said that she would present updated financial information at the February meeting.

2. Program Chair. Patrizia Miller

Dates and times for our 2025 event lineup have been finalized and the January 'Stop the Musical' performance at the Soraya is just around the corner. If you are planning on attending the event and the customary reception following the performance, it is imperative that you purchase your tickets ASAP if you have not done so yet. Please note:

1. Zac at the Soraya has set aside a block of 25 tickets at a 20% discounted rate. He has also provided us with a link to make the process seamless: [ARF Promotional Code to STOMP, 1/18/25 @ 3pm](#)
2. If you plan on attending the ARF reception after the performance, RSVP by January 15, 2025. As always you can email me at pmiller@csun.edu with your reservation for the reception. Please be sure to include spouse and/or guests who would be joining you.
3. Lastly note that the date and location for the ARF Valentine's Day lunch festivities have changed. The luncheon is now scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025, from Noon till 3:00 pm at Buon Gusto Ristorante in Mission Hills (www.buongustoristo.com). I will share more details (costs & menu choices) around mid-January.

Upcoming events and save the dates for January 2025 – June 2025:

	<u>ARF EVENTS CALENDAR 2025</u>	
<i>JANUARY</i> <i>1-18-2025</i>	The Soraya – January 18, 2025, 3:00 pm matinee “Stomp, the Musical” Reception after the performance.	The Soraya @CSUN 3:00 pm – 4:45 pm Reception – The Gallery at The Soraya 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
<i>February</i> <i>2-13-2025</i>	Valentine’s Day Lunch Buon Gusto Ristorante - www.buongustoristo.com 15535 Devonshire St. Mission Hills – CA 91345	Noon -3 pm More details to come including menu selections
<i>March</i> <i>3-14-2025</i>	ARF Speaker Series resumes Panel discussion: The CSU and ERFSA – what can they do for you? Speakers: Merry Pawlowski; Tim Fox, et al	Orchard Conference Center- Noon – 1 pm – Brunch/Lunch 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm – Panel presentation and Q & A
<i>April</i> <i>4-17-2025</i>	ARF Field trip Norton Simon Museum Pasadena California	Bus transportation provided Tentative time: 9 am- 3 pm More details to come
<i>May</i> <i>5-3-205</i>	ARF Memorial Awards Brunch	Orchard Conference Center 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
<i>June</i> <i>6-7 2025</i>	ARF General Meeting and Picnic	CSUN Arbor Grill 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

3. Membership Chair. Tim Fox

Tim noted that the new Directory is out, and the current membership count is 185 compared to 189 last year.

Tim also said that he was going to invite new emeritus faculty to our ARF picnic in June as a recruitment activity.

4. Remembrance Chair. Cynthia Rawitch

No report

5. Newsletter Editor. Ann Perkins. Ann was Excused.

No report

6. Historian. Dan Blake

A technical difficulty prevented Dan from reporting to the group.

7. Webmaster. Eugene Turner.

Gene reported that everything was fine on the ARF website, and he is simply awaiting a final draft of the minutes.

8. Faculty Senate. Michael Barrett.

No report

9. ERFSA. Tim Fox.

Tim circulated a written report to the board members yesterday (1/9/2025), and he asked that any questions on the report should be emailed to him. He also announced that:

- a. ERFSA is planning a meeting on the CSUN campus this Spring (OCC).
- b. CAL Maritime has become too small to be viable as an independent campus and may be merged with CAL Poly SLO according to a Trustees report in Fall 2026, or it may be simply closed.

OLD BUSINESS

The meeting between Patrizia Miller, Bob Gohstand, and Colin Donahue regarding a Faculty/Staff Restaurant, proposed in our November meeting, has not yet occurred. Pat and Bob plan to try to meet with Colin in Spring 2025 and then bring the information to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

The recommendation from Cynthia Desrochers to send the ARF Notes to the Deans for increased ARF visibility was received positively by those in attendance, but in Cynthia's absence, no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Diane Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am

MINUTES SUBMITTED by Dan Blake with editorial help from Diane Schwartz, Pat Nicholson, and Cathy Jeppson.



**CSUN ARF BOARD MINUTES
ZOOM MEETING (ONLINE)
FEBRUARY 14, 2025 10:30 A.M.**

PRESENT

Diane Schwartz, Cathy Jeppson, Patrizia Miller, Ann Perkins, Michael Barrett, Tim Fox, Dan Blake, Gene Turner, David Fox, Bob Kiddoo, Cynthia Rawitch, Ann Perkins, Cynthia Desrochers, Patrick Nicholson

EXCUSED: Sharon Klein, Steven Stepanek

NOTE. At the start of the session, Chair Diane Schwartz asked member Cynthia Desrochers to speak about her family's and neighbors' recent experience in the catastrophic 2025 "Palisades Fire and Flood." Cynthia reported that she and her husband Michael managed to escape personal injuries but had been through a tremulous time in moving out on time. They now are renting in nearby Santa Monica and thankfully their home in the Palisades is intact, but much work is to be done there and in the surroundings before a return home is thinkable. Cynthia expressed sympathy for her neighbors who have lost more. Chair Diane and other board members expressed commiseration -- and admiration-- for Cynthia and her family in this time of deep distress. Chair Diane and others also expressed concerns for member Sharon Klein and her family (Mandeville Canyon) for their plight in the Fires/Floodings. Sharon was unable to attend today's meeting so was not able to report on her family's stresses.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

President-Chair Diane Schwartz called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda for February 14 was adopted unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSP unanimous for the minutes of the January 10, 2025, meeting as submitted by Daniel Blake.

President-Chair Diane and Secretary Patrick Nicholson thanked Dan for substituting for Patrick and for Dan's generous and excellent work.

4. . PRESIDENT'S AND OTHER MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIONS

President- Chair Diane noted that the forthcoming calendar for Spring 2025 will be printed entirely on one page for clear communication in calendaring of events, dates, et cetera. She also said that there will be a few changes in the calendar. Tim Fox, in response to a question by Dan Blake, reported that the board will be able to approve at its April (probably via ZOOM) meeting the list of graduate student winners for the ARF May 10 honors Graduate Honors Convention.

Diane also stated that at the March 14 board meeting the board will be able to approve the elections slate for board membership for 2025-2026. Moving along with the discussion of awards, Awards Chair Tim Fox reported that the committee is looking for nominees from the colleges of HHD and ARTS

Apropos Committees and Board memberships, Chair Diane called for approval of the Nominating Committee which includes **Diane Schwartz, Cynthia Rawitch, David Fox, Tim Fox and Bob Kiddoo. MSP: APPROVED**

REPORTS

5. PROGRAM CHAIR

ARF Program Chair Patrizia Miller reported that the Committee will be meeting in March to discuss issues regarding food costs for meetings that include meals, and moving meeting schedules back to the style of pre-COVID events, perhaps banquets, et cetera. Cathy Jeppson suggested returning to the Buon Gusto restaurant where the recent SCCARF meal occurred. Cathy and others discussed considering other restaurants, food quality, parking availability and driving distances. Patrizia is working on various possibilities that are less expensive than CSUN-OCC events.

Tim Fox reported that statewide ERFSA (CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty & Staff Association) will hold an important meeting in March at the OCC. Announcements forthcoming.

Patrizia also is working with Council Member John Lee's office on the ARF April Field Trip to the Norton Simon Museum which will take place on a Thursday. Pickup time at CSUN with the bus will be around 11:00 a.m. and the return pickup at the museum will be 3:00 p.m. She also reported that the Museum has a decent café. The museum does not allow visitors to bring their own food to the site. Entrance fee at the museum is \$15 per person.

Patrizia also reported that The Soraya Executive and Artistic Director, Thor Steingraber, wants to have more ongoing connections with ARF. Members nodded that this is positive news, and thanked Patrizia.

6. TREASURER

Treasurer Cathy Jeppson reminded members that she has emailed them her report for the last two months. She added that ARF has enough in resources not to have to go into ARF's CDs for the Awards Luncheon. She also shared that the interest rate for ARF's CD's is going down.

7. MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Chair of Membership Tim Fox noted that in 2023-2024 membership was at 189. This year it is at 185. **Tim moved that ARF send notes to invite new emeriti faculty to come to the ARF Picnic. MSP: Unanimous Yes**

8. REMEMBRANCE CHAIR

Remembrance Chair Cynthia Rawitch reported that the previous day ARF member Rita Streimer (Psychology) passed away,

9. NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Editor Ann Perkins said that the deadline for submitting articles/information to the Newsletter for the March issue is February 22. She also noted that short exceptions might be OK, but submitters should contact her about late pieces.

Following an earlier suggestion by board member Cynthia Desrochers, to help increase campus awareness of ARF

MSP (unanimous) to send ARF Notes to all the nine deans, including University Library and Extension

10. HISTORIAN

Historian Dan Blake is successfully working with the chief archivist at the CSUN University Library to enhance the information for ARF history.

11. WEBSITE

ARF Web Master Gene Turner reported that there is no new information concerning the use of ARF's web.

12. CSUN FACULTY SENATE

ARF's Representative to the CSUN Academic Senate, Michael Barrett, reported that at the recent meeting Senators held lengthy and serious conversations about the recent wildfires and floods in the region and about shifts in federal financial support for education. There already have been cuts in the CSU Statewide and CSUN local budgets resulting from U.S. Presidential mandates.

Some highlights from Michael's written report on the February 13, 2025 Academic Senate meeting:

"The CSUN Faculty Senate met by zoom on February 13 from 2:25 - 5:10 pm."

Update reports were provided by President Erika Beck; Provost Meera Komarraju; VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students William Watkins; VP for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Colin Donahue; and AS President Katie Karroum. Reports, discussions, and actions focused on the following areas:

Impact of recent Southern California Wildfires. President Beck reported that some 500 faculty members and at least 400 students were directly impacted by the recent Altadena and Pacific Palisades wildfires. 17 homes of CSUN campus people were destroyed. The campus provided several emergency relief efforts through a variety of programs, especially for emergency living cost grants and housing assistance. The Counseling Center provided several support sessions.

Federal Government Priority Shifts. President Beck discussed the current state of chaos characterizing relations and connections between higher education and the Federal Government. A steady flow of orders and directives are being promulgated by different Executive Agencies; many of the mandates are contradictory, provide little clarification or implementation recommendations, and in several cases are rapidly rescinded. Areas under continued assault include: diversity, equality, and inclusion efforts, grant application and processing, transexual rights, and the continued presence of the Department of Education.

A Convening of the (CSUN) Campus faculty Leadership is scheduled for February 18 from 1-3 pm in the Ferman Room of the Oviatt Library. The meeting will focus on an extensive overview update by President Beck and discussions on key policy shifts and their projected impact on teaching and learning.

Reductions in State Budget Support. Both President Beck and Provost Komarraju reported on 2025/2026 projected state budget support for the CSU. A systemwide 7.95% reduction (\$375MM), which translates into a \$26.4 MM reduction for CSUN, is likely. Previously instituted cost reduction efforts and campus reserves should cover most of the CSUN reduction for 2025/2026. Because CSUN is one of 4 CSU campuses whose enrollment came in over target (1.7% for CSUN) the statewide required reduction for CSUN is partially offset by additional funds for the above target enrollment. Provost Komarraju reported statistics on current Spring Term enrollment."

13. ERFSA REPRESENTATIVE

Tim Fox reminded members that the next statewide ERFSA meeting will be held on campus at CSUN in April.

NEW BUSINESS

President Diane Schwartz spoke briefly about the food and rental costs of events at the CSUN OCC. More discussions about costs will be forthcoming.

MSP (unanimous) to use Zoom for board meetings when there is no on-campus event the same afternoon.

The ARF Board Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Secretary Patrick Nichelson, with thanks to ARF President Diane Schwartz for editorial assistance.