**CSUN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY (ARF)**
**2024/2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**
**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025, 11 am.**
**AT THE ARBOR COURT**
**CALIF. STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE**

# MINUTES

1. Call To Order: After welcoming the many ARF members and guests present, ARF President Diane Schwartz, Diane commenced the Business Meeting at 11:30 am.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 2024 Annual Business Meeting. **MSP Unanimous.**

3. President's Announcements.

    a. Diane noted that the tentative Program Schedule 2025-26 is printed in the program.
    b. Diane also commented that the Faculty Club Task Force motion will be discussed and voted upon later in the meeting.

REPORTS

**Membership**. Chair Tim Fox noted that throughout California there has been a slow drop in membership for retired faculty groups in the California State University system. For example, the system-wide representative organization for retired faculty and staff , ERFSA (California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty & Staff Association) has fewer members than last year, and individual campus organizations have experienced the same drops. CSUN has done better than the overall average, but we at CSUN also have an ongoing membership decline in recent years. Standard causes overall: there are fewer tenure-track faculty; retirees have been dying; we haven't been recruiting enough about-to-retire or newly retired (full and part-time) members.

**Treasurer.** Treasurer Cathy Jeppson commented that the end of the fiscal year is June 30, so we are still measuring the June income. More information to come. Meanwhile the Good news is that our overall account balances are "up" a little. The Bad news is that, largely because of national trends, the overall interest rates for our investments are down. Our Memorial Funds are up. More information will be available for our September ARF Board meeting.

**Remembrance.** Cynthia Rawitch reported that, sadly, there will be four more remembrance articles published in the July ARF Notes. She also noted that next year's Remembrance Chair will be (outgoing President) Diane Schwartz.

**President's Update on 2024-25 ARF Issues:** Diane Schwartz commented that the Orchard Conference Center has been very helpful and reasonable with prices and services for ARF events. In the immediate upcoming year all on-campus ARF Board meetings and Speaker Events will be held at the Orchard facilities. She noted that the Faculty Club Task Force (Robert Gohstand, Pat Miller and Dan Blake) report will come later in the meeting. She also urged all ARF members to help with ARF membership recruiting during the coming years.

ELECTION OF 2025/26 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
**Motions to approve the following slate of nominees were approved unanimously.**

PRESIDENT: CYNTHIA RAWITCH
VICE-PRESIDENT/ PRESIDENT-ELECT: STEVEN STEPANEK
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: DIANE SCHWARTZ
SECRETARY: DAVID FOX
TREASURER: CATHY JEPPSON
PROGRAM CHAIR: PATRICIA MILLER
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: ANN PERKINS
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: TIMOTHY FOX
HISTORIAN: DAN BLAKE
WEBMASTER: EUGENE TURNER

MEMBERS at LARGE:
[Pat: Note that Saetermoe and Saiz were elected for 1 year positions]
*BETH LASKY (2 YR)*
*BARBARA GROSS (2YR)*
*JUSTINE SU (2 YR)*
*ROBERT KIDDOO (1 YR)*
*CARRIE SAETERMOE (1 YR)*
*MARTIN SAIZ (1 YR)*

**THE FACULTY CLUB ISSUE AND TASK FORCE**

The Orange Grove Bistro (previously known as the CSUN Faculty Club/ University Club) at CSUN was recently closed and demolished. In 2024 the ARF Board created a task force, now called the ARF Faculty Club Task Force, to investigate the history of the CSUN Faculty Club and to suggest ways to replace the functionality of the "Faculty Club/ University Club" on the CSUN campus. Along these lines, the task force has drafted a motion (see below) for consideration by the ARF Board and ARF members that supports the "reestablishment a University Club on the CSUN campus". The ARF Board has recently approved this motion and ha brought it to the ARF Annual Business meeting on June 7, 2025, for consideration.

The ARF Faculty Club Task Force members are ARF members: Bob Gohstand, Patricia Miller, and Dan Blake.

Diane Schwartz
CSUN Association of Retired Faculty, President

The proposed motion from Bob Gohstand, Dan Blake and Patricia Miller follows below. Bob and Dan spoke about the issue and the importance of finding/establishing a new Faculty/ University Club. [ Pat: I moved the "motion passed" and thanks to below]

***ARF FACULTY CLUB MOTION AND STATEMENT, ENDORSED BY THE FULL ARF BOARD:***

***In light of the demise of the long-existing Orange Grove Bistro (aka CSUN Faculty/University Club) and because faculty/staff clubs are a common* and traditional element of college and academic life, the Association of Retired Faculty proposes the reestablishment of a University Club on the CSUN campus. A CSUN University Club would provide a venue for campus community interaction, the extension of hospitality to guests and potential donors, the staging of special faculty/staff events, and would thereby enhance the strength and character of the CSUN community.***

***In requesting that action be taken to reestablish this dedicated University Club space, the following specifics could be considered:***

- ***Faculty/staff could gather for sharing food and libations (beginning with lunch two or three times a week on a set***

***schedule for example, between 11 am and 2 pm midweek, then expanding the days of operations as patronage warrants.),***

- ***Faculty would have a dedicated space for interdisciplinary interaction and sharing of ideas and research,***

- ***CSUN Development Officers could host potential and existing donors and the family members of students,***

- ***CSUN as well as community-wide meetings and events could be held (this could be a source of income and would follow the time-honored tradition of hosting which was an integral part of the Orange Grove Bistro), and***

- ***This facility would be most welcoming and reflective of the nature of CSUN if it were a space with access to natural light and air with a patio usable when the weather is appropriate.***
- ***The Orchard Conference Center could be considered as a possible venue.***

****Most university campuses have space dedicated to Faculty Clubs (e.g., Sonoma State; San Diego State; UCLA; U.C.Berkeley****.*

Bob and Dan spoke to the motion and the importance of finding/establishing a new Faculty Club. The motion was passed unanimously. *The ARF Members thanked Bob Gohstand and his task force for their outstanding and important work.*

***ARF MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS/ COMMENTS:***

*Tim Fox reported that ERFSA, the systemwide organization representing CSU retired faculty and staff, will hold a hybrid (in-person and zoom) meeting at the CSUN Orchard Center in Fall 2025. More information is coming.*

***SALUTES TO DIANE SCHWARTZ AND CYNTHIA RAWITCH***

*Outgoing CSUN ARF President Diane Schwartz stated that she found her job in 2024-2025 both interesting and rewarding. She said that the board had been excellent and*

*that she appreciated the help from ARF members;  many made important suggestions and contributions. She asked everyone to please continue  helping and to MAKE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT ARF'S WORK AND EVENTS.  THE BOARD MEMBERS GAVE DIANE A CHEER FOR HER GREAT WORK.*

*Incoming President Cynthia Rawitch (who has served before) thanked the board for re-electing her. She is glad to serve. And she said to all present, "Bring a Friend to ARF Events."  THE BOARD THANKED AND WELCOMED CYNTHIA AS INCOMING  ARF PRESIDENT.*
*]*
*MSP, Adjourn at 12:30 pm*

*Minutes Submitted by Patrick Nichelson*