

**ARF BOARD MEETING May 9, 2025
CSU, NORTHRIDGE
ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY, ARF**

**Approved 2025
MEETING CONDUCTED VIA 'ZOOM'**

MONTHLY BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER.

ARF President Diane Schwartz commenced the Meeting via Zoom at 10:30 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA.

The agenda was adopted without additions or changes.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 11, 2025, ARF BOARD MEETING.

The Minutes were approved.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Diane Schwartz, Cathy Jeppson, Cynthia Rawitch, David Fox, Patrick Nicholson, Steven Stepanek, Daniel Blake, Tim Fox, Robert Kiddoo, Patrizia Miller, Eugene Turner

Guest: Robert Gohstand

EXCUSED: Michael Barrett, Cynthia Desrochers, Ann Perkins,
Sharon Klein

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF NOMINEES FOR THE 2025-2026 ARF BOARD ELECTION SLATE. MSP UNANIMOUS TO SEND THE SLATE FOR ARF MEMBERS' APPROVAL.

Since the previous Board Meeting, Beth Lasky has been nominated as a Member-at-Large (replacing Sharon Klein) and Martin Saiz has been nominated as a Member-at Large. If Steven Stepanek is elected as Vice-President/President-Elect and/or David Fox is elected as Secretary, we will have a second ballot to elect other candidates to fill the remaining Member-at-Large terms of Steven Stepanek and/or David Fox. Carrie Saetermoe and Martin Saiz have been nominated to run for these remaining terms.

The Nominating Committee are Diane Schwartz, Cynthia Rawitch, Tim Fox, David Fox, and Robert Kiddoo.

THE SLATE:

PRESIDENT, CYNTHIA RAWITCH (ELECTED)

**VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT, STEVEN STEPANEK
(NOMINATE)**

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, DIANE SCHWARTZ (ELECTED)

SECRETARY, DAVID FOX (NOMINATE)

TREASURER, CATHY JEPPSON (NOMINATE)

PROGRAM CHAIR, PAT MILLER (NOMINATE)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, TIM FOX (NOMINATE)

ARF NOTES EDITOR, ANN PERKINS (NOMINATE)

HISTORIAN, DAN BLAKE (NOMINATE)

WEBMASTER, EUGENE TURNER (NOMINATE)

MEMBER-at-LARGE, 2 YEAR, BETH LASKY (NOMINATE)

MEMBER-at-LARGE, 2 YEAR, BARBARA GROSS (NOMINATE)

MEMBER-at-LARGE, 2 YEAR, JUSTINE SU (NOMINATE)

MEMBER-at-LARGE, 1 YEAR, STEVEN STEPANEK (ELECTED)

MEMBER-at-LARGE, 1 YEAR, ROBERT KIDDOO (ELECTED)

MEMBER-at-LARGE, 1 YEAR, DAVID FOX (ELECTED)

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING A NEW CSUN FACULTY CLUB.

There was another lengthy and in-depth discussion about the replacement of a club to serve the communal and recreation needs of CSUN faculty (tenure-track and lecturers) and administrators. The campus lost the venerable “Faculty Club” building several years ago. ARF has created a task force comprised of Robert Gohstand, Pat Miller, and Dan Blake to explore the possibilities for a replacement. There are many issues entailed in the quest for a new club: costs, location, capacity, administrative support, et cetera. Robert Gohstand

pointed out that even the mental health of the academic workforce (working and retired) at CSUN can be affected by the lack of a meeting place. So far, the task force has been encouraged by the positive interest of CSUN management leaders like Colin Donahue, V.P. for Administration and Finance, and representatives of Chartwell Food Services. In talking with faculty, the task force has received unanimous interest. During the meeting, Bob and Patricia successfully encouraged the Board to pass a **MOTION that the task force bring to the ARF board a motion describing in detail goals of the Task Force and endorsing their investigation: MSP UNANIMOUS.** Chair Diane will send this MSP motion to board members for approval via text/email.

REPORTS

1.Treasurer: Cathy Jeppson.

Cathy noted that her basic finance report was emailed recently to Board members. She added that the CD's for the Graduate Memorial Awards are currently sufficient, but that overall prices for ARF services are rising.

2.Program Chair: Patrizia Miller.

Pat reported that the schedule with the Orchard for the ARF picnic/annual meeting is set. She noted that overall costs for Orchard events, as well as the Graduate Awards, have gone up

by about twenty percent. She also reported that she has sent the tentative calendar for 2025-2026 to Board members.

MSP UNANIMOUS: to accept the proposed Tentative Calendar for 2025-2026.

Pat asked the question, for the Banquet, do members prefer a Lunch or a Dinner schedule?

MSP UNANIMOUS: Timing for the Banquet should be a Lunch/Mid-Afternoon schedule. Not dinner.

3.Membership Chair: Tim Fox

Tim stated that overall membership is lower than in the past, but that recent numbers have been steady. We are losing a few members, usually by death. He added that we should work more with the about-to-retire cadre, describing the benefits of joining, the values of keeping up with CSUN news, and so on.

4. Remembrance Chair: Cynthia Rawitch

Cynthia reported that John Clendenning is working on a remembrance statement for Al Baca. Cynthia is also working on remembrances for Jim Cunningham and Warren Campbell (who died at 101). Cynthia also cited the passing of Dorena Knepper, emerita Director of Government Affairs, who was a CSUN graduate. Cynthia led a discussion about occasionally including in the Remembrances non-ARF individuals, like Dorena, who had a special impact on CSUN faculty; there was agreement

that this is a good idea. Cynthia reminded the board that more writers are needed for Remembrances.

5. Newsletter Editor: Ann Perkins

Ann was excused from this meeting.

6. Historian: Dan Blake

Dan reported that he could use, for the records, pamphlets for the Awards Brunches. Tim Fox volunteered to help with this matter.

7. Webmaster: Eugene Turner

Gene reported that there were no updates about the ARF Web.

8. CSU-ERFSA CSUN REPRESENTATIVE: TIM FOX

("CSU-ERFSA" stands for The California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association.)

Tim, who has been attending ERFSA meetings around the State of California for several years as our representative, reported that the Fall 2025 meeting of statewide ERFSA will be held on campus at CSUN. Worth attending!

ERFSA has been working aggressively regarding three-year campus audits. Also, ERFSA is investigating and monitoring the

mergers of campuses in Central and Northern California. Tim invited the Board members to read the ERFSA website. **ERFSA is CSU faculty and staff retirees' most important legislative lobbyist.** Membership has decreased by about 3% lately. There is a new discount for membership. See the ERFSA website. ARF members can pay a combined (reduced) members' fee.

ARF board members thanked Tim for his hard and valuable work with CSU-ERFSA. Thank You, Tim!

OLD BUSINESS

1. POTENTIAL ARF AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MOU

ARF leaders have been meeting for some time with Alumni Association representatives regarding a possible MOU governing working relations, coordinating events, rental sharing, et cetera. After a lengthy discussion, Cynthia Rawitch proposed a communication to the Alumni group stating that CSUN ARF thank the Alumni for their communications and helpfulness, that ARF is not ready yet for a close formal association, and that ARF is glad to work with the Alumni as coordinators, for example, of special events. **At the meeting there was a consensus approving this plan.**

2. THE BOARD SALUTED AND THANKED PRESIDENT DIANE SCHWARTZ FOR HER GREAT LEADERSHIP AND EXTRAORDINARILY HARD WORK THIS ACADEMIC YEAR OF 2024-2025.

MEETING ADJOURNED, NOON, MAY 09, 2025

Minutes Submitted by Patrick Nicholson

With thanks to Diane Schwartz for her help.