

MSU FACULTY EMERITI ASSOCIATION
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014
ROOM 204 INTERNATIONAL CENTER 1:00 PM

I. START OF THE MEETING:

Chairperson Rainey welcomed the committee members and called the meeting to order at 1:00PM. Members in attendance: Pauline Adams, Jenny Bond, Bill Cambray, Joe Chartkoff, Rita Gallin, Charles Gliozzo, Mary Kennedy, Bruce Miller, Evelyn Rivera, Albert Sparrow, Gary Stone, Jim Trosko, and Cindi Leverich of the Office of Faculty Organization and Development. Not attending: Alan Fisher, John Forsyth, Joyce Grant, and David Rovner.

II. AGENDA OF THE MEETING:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting on September 10, 2014, were approved as presented. Motion to approve was given by Joe Chartkoff and seconded by Gary Stone. A question brought up while discussing the minutes, but not part of the minutes, concerned how a retiree becomes added to the retiree list. The procedure starts with the University administration informing the MSU Retirees Association, which then shares that information with John Forsyth, who then adds the name to the FEA list.

2. FEA HISTORY PROJECT:

Joe Chartkoff reported on what was completed in the FEA History project since the last Steering Committee meeting on September 10, 2014. The section about the relationship between MSU's FEA and FEA organizations at other universities was completed, along with summaries of FEA participation on regional and national conferences. Also completed was a review of the history of relationships between the MSU FEA and the MSU Retirees Association, and its effects on each other and on the retired faculty. Also completed was an updated summary of the proposed sections of the total history report, with lists of which sections had been completed and which ones were still to be undertaken. The last area of progress concerned the history of the Communications Committee. This section was not yet fully completed, but would be finished before much longer.

3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Pauline Adams noted that the Board of Trustees did not meet in September, so there was nothing to report.

4. UNIVERSITY COUNCIL:

The University Council did meet in September, but Bruce Miller was not able to attend that meeting, so there was no news to report. He noted, however, that the University Council is not a true deliberative body in general. It is given remarks by the Provost and the Vice Provost, and some information reports are given at the meetings, but deliberation over issues and proposals and decision-making is not a regular part of its operation.

5. FACULTY SENATE AND HEALTH CARE:

Gary Stone reported on relevant activities at the Faculty senate meeting in September. Notices were sent out by the University of faculty, staff and retirees concerning some changes in benefits. The new benefit period will be from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. The changes only need to be applied to those who have others covered in their benefits, such as spouses or partners. No premium changes were announced for coverage by Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Other plans, with different types of coverage, such as dental care, may have slight cost adjustments. All recipients have been sent forms, and should fill out the forms and return them. Gary Stone noted in his report on the Faculty Senate that the senate, which met in mid-September, is somewhat like the University Council in terms of involving mostly the giving of reports, with very few votes on proposals. Reports are accepted, but not given votes. At the September meeting, John Beck divided the Faculty Senate into several small groups to discuss how they want future meetings to be held, but a decision was not reached at the meeting. Bill Davidson from the Faculty Health Care Committee, gave a report about the proposed creation of a new on-site medical clinic. The goal of establishing it is not just to provide urgent care, but to improve individuals' health status over time. The clinic would include both family physicians for general care and specialists. Gary discussed what such clinics are like. A meeting of focus groups in the Health Care Committee to discuss the proposal was suggested, and results should be reported to our committee in the near future.

6. LECTURE SERIES:

Jim Trosko is working on setting up several monthly lectures for the FEA to sponsor, and to be given at the MSU Credit Union facility at the corner of Mount Hope Avenue and Farm Lane. Several recommendations for speakers have been sent to him by Steering Committee members, and he is working on getting them scheduled. At the September lecture, audience size was very small, so concern was expressed about communicating effectively with FEA members. Gary Stone suggests that we may need to create a new subcommittee to focus on communicating with retirees and other parts of the university community about upcoming lectures. Jim also discussed a practice being followed at Lansing Community College in which a chosen book is assigned to all students throughout the College, and a particular day is set aside in which the entire day is devoted to having open-house opportunities throughout the campus for students to come in and discuss that book. Jim proposes that we contact the organizer of this program at Lansing Community College to learn more about how the program operates and what it has been accomplishing.

7. ORAL HISTORY PROJECT:

Pauline Adams reported that for this project she interviewed Ron Fisher on September 11th, and that the recorded interview will be filed in the Library as usual.

8. RECOGNITION AWARDS PROJECT:

Jenny Bond reported that she will work with Cindi Leverich to gain nominations for the next set of awards. Forms will be distributed in November, to be returned in December, to ask for recommendations for units and individuals to be granted awards at next year's annual meeting. For rewards for individuals, the emphasis is to be on post-retirement activities.

Units should be recognized for their support and contributions to retired faculty. Help will be requested at the November meeting.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

After the September meeting of the Steering Committee, James Rainey met with Gary Stone, Charles Gliozzo and John Forsyth to discuss possible by-laws changes. By-laws changes will be proposed, not to change Association membership, but to improve in some problem areas. One concerns some problems with planned revisions of the Steering Committee text. Green has been put back in on both pages, while red has been removed. Some changes need to be proposed at the annual meeting next May. Charles Gliozzo noted that the revised by-laws were approved, and that it also would be good to make the annual meeting more social. It was proposed that a subcommittee be formed to deal with the issues being considered. It will become a continuing agenda item for Steering Committee meetings. It also was suggested that a new survey be done of faculty emeriti in order to keep the FEA focused on issues of concern. Cindi Leverich offered to help conduct a new survey. Mary Kennedy also volunteered to join the subcommittee on communication issues to help with these needs. As a result, the new subcommittee to consider new proposals will consist of John Forsyth, David Rovner, Mary Kennedy, Charles Gliozzo and Rita Gallin.

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The meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 1:00-3:00 PM (room to be announced)

--Submitted by Joe Chartkoff

Revised November 3, 2014