EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

January 20, 2021

Video Conference on Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Present: Richard Branda, Fred Curran, Stephen Cutler, Mary Jane Dickerson, Alan Gotlieb, Michael Gurdon, Dwight Matthews, Beth Mintz, Jack McCormack, Lee Thompson, Judith Van Houten, Mara Saule

Absent: Jeanine Carr

Call to Order: Chair Michael Gurdon called the meeting to order at 2:02pm

1. Minutes of December 16, 2020, were approved as amended following a discussion of the New Business section. Chair Gurdon proposed that the last sentence is redundant and could be eliminated. There were additional examples noted of retiree exclusion from the University community such as computer support and health and wellbeing programs. Beth Mintz moved that the minutes be amended as proposed and that this issue be brought up with Human Resources. The motion was seconded by Steve Cutler and passed unanimously.

2. RFAO Board Meeting
   a. Faculty Senate Report (Mara Saule). There was no meeting of the full Senate in January. There are ongoing outside meetings regarding the academic reorganization proposal.
   b. United Academics Report (Beth Mintz). Mediated bargaining sessions continue, but after one year of discussions there has not been much movement.
   c. A proposal for initiating a communication link between UA and RFAO members (Michael Gurdon). Chair Gurdon offered for discussion a new listserv between RFAO members and UA that would be similar to the existing RFAO forum. To enroll, a member would contact either Michael or the UA communications person and self-select to a group that wants to get involved with UA activities. During the discussion it was suggested that this proposal be tabled until the next meeting to give board members time to consider the ramifications. One concern is that it may not be desirable to have a subgroup of RFAO operating outside of RFAO. One possibility is that a board member who participates in the new forum report on its activities periodically to the board.
   d. Progress on recording of retiree obituaries (Lee Thompson). In memoriam notices are archived during the period 2010-2016, but it has been difficult to locate more recent obituaries. Some issues of HERMES are missing and identification of retirees in newspapers is erratic. There is considerable variation in the length and detail of obituaries. The Senate certificates are lengthy, while others are little more than name, dates and department. During the discussion it was recommended to find out if HR tracts the deaths of retirees, perhaps through health insurance coverage.
   e. Software access survey (Michael Gurdon). A subgroup of Judy, Dwight and Michael was formed to survey members. A memo has been prepared and will be sent out soon. Members will be asked for their feedback regarding the impact of restricted
software access on their scholarship and about which software packages they would use if they were available and free. The goal is to determine how many members are affected by the restrictions and the extent of the limitations.

f. Administrative Officer representation on the Board (Chair Gurdon). After many years of valuable service, Fred Curran is considering retirement from the board. Chair Gurdon asked the board to think about former senior administrative officers who could be invited to join the board and suggest candidates.

g. New Business. Greg Paradiso will attend the next board meeting to discuss HR issues of concern to the board. In addition Pamela Getsie and Ingrid Temer representing Vermont Blue Advantage will be available to answer questions raised during the introduction of the program to members. These have included the dollar amount of deductibles for specialists, the lack of informational mailings to members, medications that will be more expensive with the new plan, and the availability of wellness activities for members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm

The next meeting is scheduled for: **February 17, 2021 at 2pm**

Respectfully submitted, Richard Branda