

Houston Baptist University
Retirees' Association – October 19th, 2012

The Fall 2012 luncheon meeting was held in Dillon Center, Hinton Building. It was called to order by Chair Mary Ellen Spore. Ruth Ann Williamson led us in a word of prayer, followed by our luncheon. Ruth Ann Williamson introduced guest speaker Dr. Chris Hammons, Professor of Government. His topic was "Five Things Every American Should Know about the Electoral College".

Old Business: The chair thanked Sue Sloan for the lovely flower arrangements. The photograph that was taken at the April meeting was available for viewing and placed in the archives. Thanks to Michael Timms for taking the photo. President and Ms. Sloan hosted a reception in their home for the Retiree's Association on Thursday September 27th. After the reception we were given a tour of the newly opened Fine Arts Museum in the University Academic Center. The exhibit on display featured works by major artists from the collection of Sharon and William Morris. Thanks to Sharon Saunders for arranging the reception and tour. Rodeo tickets are available again this year, courtesy of Sherry Hibbert. Ed Best won them last year.

New Business: A survey was on the table for everyone to fill out questioning dinner charges for our meals. The results will be discussed at the next Administrative Board meeting and voted on. Judy Elleson has resigned as member-at-large due to moving out of the city. A Nominating Committee chaired by Ruth Ann Williamson has recommended Dr. Daton Dodson to be the new representative -at-large. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Chair then outlined a proposal for by-laws revisions. It was suggested that the by-laws 1. reflect the inclusion of the Membership and Hospitality chairs as officers on the Board (Section I, & Section 4, Article III); 2. with the exception of the two University Liaison Officers, nomination shall be made by a three-member Nominating Committee, appointed by the Chair at the February meeting of even numbers years (Section 2, Article III); 3. the Membership Officer shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the Directory, to be distributed in April of odd numbered years and contact prospective members (Section 6, formerly Section 10, Article IV); 4. the Hospitality Officer shall send cards to the members or their families in the event of illness, recovery from surgery, or bereavement, and also notify the Director of the Library regarding the selection of a memorial book in the event of the death of a member, member's spouse or member's child and also contact members who have not responded to meeting invitations (Section 7, Article IV); 5. Section 8 will now be the combinations of former sections 6 & 7 no change in wording; 6. Section 9 was formerly section 8; 7. Section 10 was formerly section 9; 8. There will be three regular meetings each year during the months of October, February and April to reflect the new semester system changing dates and wording Section 1, Article V); 9. The Association Chair shall send to the membership timely notice of all meetings with an agenda as established by the Administrative Board, Section 3, Article V; 10. Annual dues will be accepted beginning with the Annual Meeting in April. Dues apply from the first day in June through the thirty-first of May each year. (Section 3, Article VIII); 11. The names of the members in good standing as of March 1 of odd-numbered years will appear in the Directory; (Section 4, Article VIII); 12. Delete Article IX because information is covered in Article IV, sections 6 and 7.

Dr. Byrnes moved to approve the revisions in the by-laws and Dr. Raley seconded. The motion passed and will be presented to the membership at the February meeting. The next general meeting will be on February 22nd. It will consist of a luncheon followed by a music program from the HBU School of Music.

Officer Reports: Dr. Wentland made the motion to accept the minutes as read and Dr. Looser seconded. The motion was approved.

Treasurer, Ken Rogers reported that there was \$1,193.59 in the University account and \$6,301.19 in our Retiree Account. Mr. Rogers thanked Loree Watson and her team for all the help in gathering the information for his report.

Historian Ed Best brought a copy of the photo that Michael Timms took of the Retirees at the April meeting so that everyone could see it.

Hospitality Officer Becky Greer reported on the deaths and illness since the last meeting: Mrs. Pat Lassonde passed away on April 27, 2012. She retired from the University in 2003 having served Dr. Hodo for 16 years. The book "A Feminist Companion to the Apocalypse of John", edited by Amy-Jill Levine, was donated to the library in her memory. A thank you card was received from her daughter, Mrs. Stephen Dazzo. Isaiah Benjamin Holt, son of Justin and Alatheia Holt, grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Sloan was born on May 9th and passed away that evening. A card was sent to the Sloans with our condolences. Mr. Jerry Moffett, husband of Hilda Moffett, passed away on July 12, 2012. We received a thank you card from Hilda. The book "The Fourth Gospel and the Quest for Jesus: Modern Foundations Reconsidered," by Paul N. Anderson was donated in memory of Jerry. Mr. Scott Zapalac, son of Ellouise and George Zapalac, passed away on July 28, 2012 in Lubbock, Texas. Scott worked in medical missions touching lives in Africa, Central and South America. Since it was after the funeral and we did not have a recent address for the family, an on-line message from the Association was left on the funeral home website. Dr. Jon Suter was hospitalized at the end of August and was sent a get-well card. We are so glad to have him back. He recovered just in time to start classes this semester. John Hendrickson, former music faculty member, passed away September 24, 2012 and a card was sent to his wife Patricia. A book will be placed in the Library in his memory.

Membership Officer Shari Wescott reported that there were currently 39 paid members and she has names of 50 more prospective members. She will send an announcement to those people. If you have anyone that you think that might be interested, please let Shari know.

Representative-at-large, Jennie Hedger is planning a book club for our retirees. The first meeting will be Thursday, November 1, 2012 in room 111 of the Library from 11:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. The meetings will be in February 28th, May 2nd and August 1st. You can bring your lunch or there is a coffee bar in the Library. Please come if you can to any of the meetings.

University Liaison, Candace Desrosiers mentioned the upcoming Spirit of Excellence Dinner on November 1, 2012

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Greer in the absence of Dr. Jon Suter

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

Listed below are proposed changes to the by-laws of the Houston Baptist University Retirees Association with rationale for changes included. Changes are in bold face type.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

SECTION 1 – OFFICERS: The officers of this association shall consist of a Chair, Assistant Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, **Membership Officer, Hospitality Officer, two** University Liaison Officers and two Members-at-Large

The reasoning for changing the titles of Membership and Hospitality is that they are not functioning as a committee chair, but rather as officers with a specific set of duties that do not require a committee of several individuals.

SECTION 2 – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS: With the exception of the **two University Liaison Officers**, nominations for Assistant Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, **Historian, Membership Officer, Hospitality Officer** and two Members-at-Large shall be made by a three-member Nominating Committee, appointed by the Chair at the February meeting of even numbered years. (remainder of Section 2 stands)

The offices of Historian, Membership and Hospitality are not currently included in the list of officers to be nominated.

SECTION 4 – ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD: The Administrative Board shall be composed of the Chair, Assistant Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, **Membership Officer, Hospitality Officer**, two University Liaison Officers and two Members-at-Large. Former chairs shall serve as ex-officio members.

This reflects changes indicated in Section 1.

ARTICLE IV

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Sections 1-5 will stand as currently written. To comply with above officer list, other section numbers will change.

SECTION 6 – (formerly Section 10) The Membership Officer shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the Directory, to be distributed in April of odd numbered years. In October of even numbered years, an addendum listing the names of members who join the Association after publication of the Directory shall be distributed. Membership shall also contact prospective members.

This change reflects the fact that the year for publishing a Directory has changed from even to odd.

SECTION 7 – (new ; formerly Article IX, Section 1) The Hospitality Officer shall send cards to members or their families in the event of illness, recovery from surgery, or bereavement. The Hospitality Officer will notify the Director of the Library regarding the selection of a memorial book in the event of the death of a member, member's spouse or member's child. Exceptions to this must be approved by the Administrative Board. The Association Chair will be notified of the book selection and the Director of the Library will notify the family of the selection. The Hospitality Officer will also contact members who have not responded to meeting invitations.

This change reflects the duties of Hospitality as currently practiced. If the Hospitality Officer needs assistance in contacting members, he/she may ask an Association member for help.

SECTION 8 – (combination of formers Sections 6 & 7; no change in wording) **The Liaison Officers shall report directly to the President of the University or his designee. The Liaison Officers shall assist the Association in its relations with the University and shall schedule Association and Board meeting dates and venues on the University calendar as well as coordinate arrangements for media and food service.**

SECTION 9 – (formerly Section 8 – no change in wording)

SECTION 10 – (formerly Section 9 – no change in wording)

Section 6 now contains information formerly contained in Section 10. This was done to comply with the order of offices stated in Article III, Section 1 – Officers.

SECTION 11 – (stands as written)

ARTICLE V
MEETINGS

SECTION 1 – There shall be three regular meetings each year during the months of October, February and **April**. The **April** meeting shall be referred to as the **Association’s Annual Business Meeting**. Election of officers shall be held at the **April** meeting in even numbered years.

This change from May to April as the month for the final meeting of the year was necessitated by a change in the University calendar from a quarter system to a semester system.

SECTION 3 – The **Association Chair** shall send to the membership timely notice of all meetings together with an agenda as established by the Administrative Board.

This change reflects current practice. The Chair rather than the Secretary has been sending out meeting notices for several years.

ARTICLE VIII
DUES

SECTION 3 – Annual dues shall be payable in advance. Dues apply from the first day in June through the thirty-first of May each year. Dues shall be accepted beginning with the Annual Meeting in **April**.

This change is to comply with change in the Annual Meeting from May to April.

SECTION 4 – The names of the members in good standing as of **March 1** shall appear in the Directory.

This change reflects the change in publication date of the Association Directory.

ARTICLE IX
STANDING COMMITTEES

Delete this Article. Information is covered in Article IV, Sections 6 and 7.

Approved by the Administrative Board on August 28, 2012

PROPOSED SURVEY

After much discussion by the members of your Administrative Board with regard to what we will charge for meals, it was decided that we need input from you, the members.

Here are some facts you should know:

1. The current charge of \$5 per meal will remain in place unless otherwise changed by vote of the membership.
2. Food costs have risen. Based upon figures from Aramark, a meal that formerly cost approximately \$11.40 per person will now cost in the range of \$14.70.
3. This year the University is providing the Retirees' Association with an operation budget of \$1500. For the past several years, the amount was \$2000. The combination of higher food costs plus a reduction in our operating budget from the University means that it will be necessary to dip into our restricted account to cover expenses beyond the \$1500 provided by the University.
4. The restricted account contains approx. \$6000 and it has been our practice to deposit all receipts, both from dues and meals, into this account. We are not in any danger of running low on funds.

We value your opinion, so please respond to the following:

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| 1. Keep the meal charge per person at \$5. | YES | NO |
| 2. Increase the meal charge to \$7.50. | YES | NO |
| 3. Increase the meal charge to \$10.00 | YES | NO |

COMMENTS: