

Minutes of the Emeriti Council Meeting of February 8, 2022

Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order by zoom. Those in attendance were: Sisay Asefa, Joe Buckley, Phil Caruso, Barbara Hemphill, Louise Forsleff, Gary Lawson, and Darry Salisbury.

Welcome to Asefa: Sisay Asefa had just agreed to join the Council and was duly welcomed and thanked for his willingness to serve.

Programs in March and April: The ongoing uncertainties of the Covid pandemic once again led to a discussion of whether it was possible to have Wednesday II programs in March and April. There were three possible presenters: Dasha Nisula, Barbara Hemphill and Elyse Connors. Hemphill stated that she would probably know by Thursday, February 10th whether she would be able to be present in either March or April. There was also the question of whether Charles Ide who was originally scheduled for January might be available. It was decided to wait until Hemphill can determine her availability.

Break Fest in August: The question of whether the protocol rules would allow us to have the traditional Break-Fest in August was raised as well as who we might invite as a speaker. Lagerwey agreed to contact Peter Kobrak who played a significant role in arranging this in the past.

Updating the Emeriti Council Website: Megan Way of the Provost's Office has agreed to see that the information we provide her is added to our website. Lawson agreed to furnish her a list of the current members of the Council.

The Emeriti Directory: Because the University no longer publishes a print directory containing names of the current emeriti and information as to how to contact them, the Council is still working with Megan Way to try and get an online directory of emeriti available.

Council Meetings in March and April: There was a consensus that those present would prefer to meet in person rather than virtually in March and April. It was agreed that there are sufficiently few of us that we could space ourselves out that individuals might not be uncomfortable attending a meeting face-to-face. It was agreed to meet in person. It was mentioned that individuals must be vaccinated, have had their booster shot and wear a mask. They should also have their proof of vaccination with them.

Spring Fling: The question was raised as to whether we should attempt to have a Spring Fling. The last one that was planned for Friendship Village, partially because a number of the emeriti have their residence there. As happened last time, we might plan such an event, send out invitations and collect payments and then discover that we have to cancel it because of the venue being closed to outsiders. It was agreed that we need to make this decision at the March Meeting in order to send out the invitations. Before that we should contact Friendship Village about their policies. If we were to schedule Spring Fling, it would be on one of three Fridays in May. Discussion ensued as to who we might invite as a speaker.

May Newsletter: Darryl Salisbury needs any information that we want to publish in the May Newsletter by April 15. That newsletter would also need to contain the invitations to the Spring Fling and the August Break-Fest if we intend to have them.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 8 at 2:00 in the Emeriti Lounge.

Submitted by Phil Caruso

Minutes of the Emeriti Council Meeting of June 14, 2022

Chairperson Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order. Members in attendance were: Joe Buckley, Phil Caruso, Louise Forsleff, Peter Kobrak and Darryl Salisbury.

Agenda: The agenda had been distributed by Lagerwey by email. The agenda was approved.

Minutes of May 10, 2022: The minutes of May 10 meeting had been distributed by email. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Comments by the Chairperson: Lagerwey thanked Peter Kobrak for his work on Spring Fling and Caruso for presenting the speaker at the May Wednesday II.. Lagerwey reported that she has communicated with Sara Brodasky of the Faculty Senate. The reception for retirees has been cancelled. Only about 12 of the retirees from this year had indicated they would attend. Apparently, the Senate had not included the retirees from last year for whom no celebration had been held in its invitation. There is a new assistant to the Provost.

Report of Spring Fling: Kobrak reported on the Spring Fling. About 80 individuals attended. Everyone had an enjoyable time. A thank you note from Garrard McLeod was read.

Retirees Reception: As noted above the retirement reception for this year's retirees has been cancelled. Discussion took place as to whether the Council should take this event over. It was agreed that this would be precedent setting and that it would be expensive. Since emeriti donated to a number of the activities at the University such as their Departments, the WMU Library, the Textbook Scholarship, the Medallion Scholarship program, the Theater Guild, among others), should the Council meet with the Development Office?

Future Wednesday II Presentations: Gary Lawson has already scheduled the Wednesday II presentations for the Fall Semester.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Phil Caruso

Minutes of the Emeriti Council Meeting of September 14, 2022

Chairperson Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order. Members in attendance were: Joe Buckley, Bob Dlouhy, Barb Hemphill, and Darryl Salisbury.

Agenda: The agenda had been distributed by Lagerwey by email. The agenda was approved.

Minutes of June 2022 meeting were accepted as written

Comments by the Chairperson:

Lagerwey welcomed the new Emeriti Council member, Bob Dlouhy, emeritus, who retired from CELCIS in 2019. Lagerwey offered to take minutes for this meeting and EC members agreed to rotate this responsibility.

A discussion of Wednesday II events included the need for better communication and advertising for events, the possibility of using Zoom to allow emeriti to watch and listen to events from off-campus, and future options such as WARF, Rick Gershon and other emeriti in “Last Lecture” presentations, John Dunn, and Kathleen King from Campus Ministry on how this organization supports students. It is hoped that the updated emeriti email list will reach more emeriti.

Barb Hemphill reported on the recent Zoom meeting of OLLI. They had noted that there was an increase of 25% since fall 2021 in the number of first-year students at WMU.

There was a discussion of ways to reach recently appointed emeriti. Darryl Salisbury reported that he has biographies of recent retirees, prepared for retirement events, and suggested that all recent emeriti be sent a paper letter describing the EC and how they can be involved. Mary Lagerwey also will check with the Faculty Senate for any lists they might have and will review WMU Board of Trustees minutes for names of those granted emeriti status in the past 3 years.

The EC discussed the Emeriti Medallion and Book Scholarships. It was agreed to resume the practice of EC members taking current Emeriti Medallion recipients out to lunch. Mary Lagerwey will follow up on both of these scholarships in terms of funding and why there have been no Emeriti Book Scholarships given in the past 2 academic years.

EC members were asked to assist with writing short news articles for the fall emeriti newsletter and to personally invite at least one emeritus to join the Emeriti Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00. The EC will meet again at 2:00 on October 11 in the Emeriti Room of Walwood Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lagerwey

Minutes of the Emeriti Council Meeting of October 11, 2022

Chairperson Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order. Members in attendance were: Bob Dlouhy, Barb Hemphill, and Darryl Salisbury. The meeting was held in the Hennig Emeriti Lounge in Walwood Hall.

Agenda: The agenda had been distributed by Mary Lagerwey by email. The agenda was approved.

Minutes of the September 2022 meeting were accepted as written

Mary Lagerwey offered to take minutes for this meeting.

Updates:

- Mary Lagerwey met with the dean and associate dean of the Lee Honors College to discuss the Emeriti Medallion Scholarship.
 - The scholarship is funded by emeriti, with sizable gifts allowing for full Medallion Scholarships to be offered on a regular basis three out of four years. The criteria and process for selecting awardees is the same as for other Medallion Scholarships. In 2020 the award was given the name “James Bosco Emeriti Medallion Scholarship.”
 - As of February 28, 2022, the fund balance for the Emeriti Council Medallion Scholarship was \$1,314,411.05. \$46,000 had been awarded through the Medallion Scholarship for the 7/1/2021 – 2/28/2022 period. A new gift of \$225.00 and investment activity of \$33,558.59 were recorded for the period of 7/1/2021 – 2/28/2022.
 - Mary Lagerwey will get contact information for the current scholars and try to get information for the fall Newsletter.
 - The Emeriti Book Scholarship has not been awarded for the past two years. It is not listed in the “Scholarship Universe,” which may explain why it has not been awarded. The balance as of April 2022 was \$10,534. As of that date, \$2,525 was contributed in 2021 and \$2,800 was contributed in 2022.
 - In the fall Emeriti Newsletter, emeriti will be encouraged to contribute to the Medallion, book, and emergency funds for students.
- Updates from Provost's Office
 - The Provost's Office will continue supporting the EC in communicating with emeriti and updating lists.
 - Mary Lagerwey is working with the Provost's Office to get a clearer picture of EC finances and funding for scholarships.
- Recruitment of additional members for EC and Faculty Senate representatives
 - Sandra Glista has agreed to continue as a representative from the EC to the Faculty Senate
 - As discussed at the September EC meeting, all members of the EC are encouraged to be active participants in recruiting members to the EC
- Roster / updates of recently retired emeriti
 - Darryl Salisbury reminded the EC that he has biographies from many emeriti that were submitted for past retirement events.

- Mary Lagerwey has reviewed Board of Trustee records for the past five years and identified those who have retired during that time.
- It was agreed that the EC should reach out to them to welcome them to retirement and describe opportunities for emeriti.

Wednesday II Events

- A discussion of Wednesday II events included the need for better advertising for events
- Lagerwey is exploring the possibility of using Zoom to allow emeriti to watch and listen to events from off-campus
- Future options include WARF, Rick Gershon in a “Last Lecture” presentation, Lynn Houghton about the Zhang and WMU Archives Center, Kathleen King from Campus Ministry, Steve Fergeson on WMU’s Atom Smasher, and Hong Yatlam on WMU’s pianos and their care. Barb Hemphill will follow up with Kathleen King, and Mary Lagerwey will follow up with Rick Gershon and Lynn Houghton.
- The September presentation of “Monologues” by Stan Robin was well-attended, with over 25 present. Stan, however, reported that in the past he has had double that number at his presentations and that he and several of his friends had not received an announcement of the event.

Email communication with emeriti.

- The “Enterprise” email system set up over the summer is no longer delivering messages to many of the emeriti. Hundreds of email messages announcing the September Wednesday II event bounced back. This included about an equal number of wmich.edu and outside addresses.
- Mary Lagerwey will follow up with IT to address the problem and, if needed, other options for communication.

Fall Newsletter

Darryl Salisbury asked EC members to assist with writing short news articles for the fall emeriti newsletter. These include reports on Wednesday II events, updates on EC members, an updated description of the EC functions, events, and scholarships.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02. The EC will meet again at 2:00 on November 8 in the Hennig Emeriti Room of Walwood Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Lagerwey

Minutes of the Emeriti Council Meeting of November 8, 2022

Present: Bob Dlouhy, Barb Hemphill, James Leja, Mary Lagerwey, Darryl Salisbury,

Housekeeping:

Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order at 2:00 and will take minutes for this meeting. Lagerwey began by welcoming Professor Emeritus James Leja from the Department of Blindness and Low Vision to the meeting. He will be joining the Emeriti Council meetings remotely. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes from the October 2022 meeting were approved by consensus as written.

Lagerwey provided the following updates:

- Medallion scholarship
 - Information has been received on the three current Medallion scholarships funded by the Emeriti and will be featured in the fall Emeriti Newsletter. In the spring semester the EC will explore options for meeting with them in person.
- EC Book Scholarship
 - This scholarship has been reactivated and will be awarded by the Financial Aid Office for spring semester.
- The Group set up to send email messages to emeriti has been deleted. IT continues working with the EC to enable direct messages to emeriti from the E
- WARF and the EC are co-sponsoring a presentation for January 20 in the CHHS building on benefits for WARF members and emeriti.

Fall Emeriti Newsletter:

- Darryl Salisbury provided updates on the Fall Emeriti Newsletter. The following will be included in the newsletter
 - Updated “Overview of purpose and functions of EC” Statement
 - Articles on Wednesday II presentations offered and planned
 - EC Medallion Scholars
 - Roster / updates of recently retired emeriti

Wednesday II events

- Preparations and supplies for scheduled Wednesday II events November 2022 - January 2023 were discussed. These include:
 - Touring the nature center, the Portage Senior Center, Friendship Village, Heritage Retirement Village, and the Gilmore Car Museum. Various members of the EC agreed to explore opportunities for having Wednesday II events at these sites.
- EC members will discuss the level of interest for Wednesday II events and options for advertising at the January EC meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Mary D Lagerwey