

# 2022 WMU Emeriti Council Minutes

## Meeting Minutes: 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

---

## **Meeting Minutes: 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

---

## **Meeting Minutes: 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

---

## **Meeting Minutes: 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

---

## **Meeting Minutes: November 8, 2022**

Present: Robert Dlouhy, Barbara Hemphill, James Leja, Mary Lagerwey, Darryl Salisbury

Mary Lagerwey called the meeting to order at 2:00

Housekeeping

- Mary Lagerwey agreed to take minutes for this meeting.
- The agenda was approved with the addition of Barbara Hemphill reporting on OLLI.
- Minutes of October 2022 meeting were approved following corrections in the spelling of Robert Dlouhy’s and Barbara Hemphill’s names.

Updates and Reviews

- November's Wednesday II presentation was discussed. One person joined Zoom through a computer of an EC member. It was noted that other arrangements will be necessary if the EC is to offer presentations to a broader office. Walwood Hall does not have the facilities to provide on-line access to EC presentations. Jim Leja will check out other options for WebCT for having presentations available on-line.
- Review of Fall Emeriti Newsletter
  - Content: Following a discussion of the need for broader input to the newsletter, EC members agreed to provide short entries to Darryl Salisbury on topics such as updates on the college or department in which they worked. Reports on Wednesday II presentations and new emeriti should be continued in future editions of the newsletter.
  - Process: It was agreed that the Spring Emeriti Newsletter should be sent out May 1, 2023, and all submissions should be sent to Darryl Salisbury by April 1 if possible, and April 15 at the very latest.
- Report from Development Office on Scholarships: Mary Lagerwey announced that the book scholarship is again being awarded. She will follow up with the Financial Aid Office to review criteria for awarding this scholarship.
- Status of group emails to emeriti: Mary Lagerwey reported that the EC is still unable to send emails directly to emeriti. The Office of the Provost is sending out announcements on behalf of the EC at this time. Some members of the EC reported not receiving an announcement about the January 9 Wednesday II Emeriti presentation. Mary Lagerwey agreed to follow up to see why some emeriti are not receiving announcements that are intended for all emeriti.

#### Wednesday II events

- Preparations, supplies, and schedules for Wednesday II events spring 2023 semester
  - Dasha Nisula will present on January 9
  - Lynn Houghton: due to scheduling conflicts for rooms in the Zhang Center, her presentation has been rescheduled for March 8.
  - Barbara Hemphill
- Membership and level of interest in EC. A discussion was held on collaboration with WARF and possibly OLLI as the audiences are similar, and whether advertising for events by the three organizations can be sent to the audiences of all three organizations. A large membership of the EC may not be necessary but there is concern about decreasing attendance at Wednesday II events.
- Advertising: possibly through WMUK: Mary Lagerwey will follow up to see whether the EC can list Wednesday II presentation through WMUK.

Mary Lagerwey noted that the emeriti will be sent an invitation to join the WARF meeting on January 20 in CHHS and on-line. This meeting will provide updates on WMU benefits for retirees.

Mary Lagerwey attended the December 2022 in-person Faculty Senate meeting. There were no proposals on which to vote.

- Announcements of interest include that Dr. Julian Vasquez Heilig began as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs on Jan. 4, 2023.
- The 2022 recipient of an honorary WMU doctorate is Audrey Morean Petersen, co-founder of Jabil Circuit, renowned as an influential philanthropist as well as an accomplished visual artist.
- All members of the WMU community are invited to consider making a nomination for a 2023 recipient of a WMU honorary doctorate degree: <https://wmich.edu/president/honorarydegree>
- There will be no January 2023 meeting of the Faculty Senate. The next meeting will be on February 2, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm. The next meeting of the Emeriti Council will be held on February 7, 2023 at 2:00.

Respectfully submitted by Mary D. Lagerwey