

SUNY Retirees Service Corps, Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, January 23, 2009, 12- 3 PM, Room N-520, SUNY Plaza

1. Opening Remarks

Ram thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, in particular Carl Wiezalis who adjusted his schedule to attend. The goal was to discuss the work accomplished during the previous year and to set directions/goals for the upcoming year.

2. Meeting with UUP President Phil Smith.

Carl and Ram met with UUP President Phil Smith a few weeks ago to share information about RSC, a PowerPoint presentation was also delivered. Phil was enthusiastic and offered his support. RSC was invited to make a presentation at the UUP Delegate Assembly meeting on April 24 at the Desmond in Albany. An e-mail from Phil Smith was distributed. Phil suggested sharing the information relating to RSC with Ellen Schuler Mauk (located at Suffolk County Community College) to seek her involvement and support. Ellen heads the NYSUT Community Colleges group.

3. Community Colleges

- Ram discussed the meeting he had with Milton Johnson, President FCCC, about two months ago to brief him about the RSC activities. Milton was supportive of this SUNY initiative and invited Ram to make a formal presentation to FCCC at its March meeting.
- In response to Phil's suggestion, Ram contacted Ellen Schuler Mauk and shared with her information relating to RSC. Ellen expressed support for RSC and requested to be kept informed.
- Suffolk County Community College Retirement Association - Peter Herron and Jim Breenan - Suffolk County Community College has an active retirees program which was started few years ago with the efforts of Peter Herron and others. Jim Breenan is its current president. Both have been contacted. We may request one of them (through Milton Johnson) to serve on the advisory council representing the community colleges.
- Data on Community Colleges Retirees - There was a concern about the accuracy of data on retirees from the community colleges. The data on retirees by the System Administration shows about 7000 retirees belonging to the community colleges. We need to verify the number of retirees from the community colleges and Milton Johnson agreed to look into this.

4. Services Offered by the Campuses to Their Retirees

- An updated table containing the list of services offered by the state-operated campuses to their retirees was distributed. This table gave an aggregate picture of the services offered by the campuses. It was suggested that we should include tables showing services available at each of the responding campus. That will help the retirees to take advantage of those services at their respective campuses. The webpage will include an aggregate table as well as tables for the responding campus.

5. SUNY Retirees Service Corps Brochure

- The brochure was approved with a few changes: the 2008 around the seal on the cover be removed, the star to denote executive committee members on the advisory council member list be in color, Julie Petti be added to the list of members, and the e-mail address be changed to retirees@suny.edu. The brochure will be presented at the Advisory Council meeting in March.

6. Duties and Composition of the Advisory Council

- Brochure on the advisory council was approved as distributed.
- Members from the regions not yet represented on the advisory council will be added soon. Ram and Carl will work together to identify potential members. The names of the nominees will be submitted to the advisory council for approval.
- Travel expenses will be paid to the advisory council members to cover costs of attending the meetings.

7. Creating Awareness and Support from the Campus Presidents and other University-wide Groups

- Ram indicated that there has been no formal presentation to the Senior Staff at the System Administration and to the campus presidents regarding the SUNY Retirees Service Corps. The support of the chancellor, senior staff, and the campus presidents, is vital to the success of RSC. Curtis was requested to explore avenues where Ram could make presentations to these groups, especially to the campus presidents. UCAD was identified as another university wide group whose support will be helpful to RSC. Ram was asked to contact this group for making a presentation.

8. Retirement Experiences

- A new item relating to retirement experiences by SUNY retirees has been added to the webpage. Ram indicated that almost all retired members of the advisory council and several retirees from UAlbany and from Cobleskill had submitted their retirement stories and these were now on the webpage. RSC plans to collect around 100 retirement stories from other SUNY retirees during this year.

9. SUNY Retirees Webpage Phase One

- The website was reviewed by the executive committee and was well received. A few minor mistakes were noted. The website will be sent out to the Advisory Council members in the middle of February for their review, after which corrections and enhancements will be made based upon recommendations. The website will be presented to the Advisory Council on March 11 for its approval. The website would also be reviewed by the IT Department to ensure the webpage was consistent with the New York State and SUNY technical, legal, and policy guidelines.

10. SUNY Retirees Webpage Phase Two (on-line phone directory)

- Building an on-line directory of retirees and connecting retirees with voluntary service opportunities constitute the core of the RSC's mission. It was important that the on-line directory was incorporated within the webpage at the earliest. The privacy and other technical issues should be discussed and resolved soon. Curtis suggested having a meeting with the IT people to determine the process (technical and legal requirements)

for incorporating an on-line directory. In short, this phase will allow retirees to register in a private section of the RSC website. This in turn will allow retirees to access a directory of contact information for fellow SUNY retirees and to contact campuses and agencies looking for retiree volunteers. The IT department is currently reviewing the preliminary planning document for this phase.

11. Manual for Starting a Campus Retirees Program

- RSC is putting together a "Start Up Guide" which will contain information about starting a retirees program at the campuses. A one-page summary highlighting the work of retirees and what campuses can do to involve them in service activities will be included. The manual will include a variety of information and will be distributed to all SUNY campuses in March (after a review by the Advisory Council).

12. Meeting with UAlbany Emeritus Center

- Ram attended a meeting of the UAlbany Emeriti Center Board in December. There was a discussion about having a university wide meeting of SUNY retirees to discuss issues of interest to retirees and to encourage campuses to initiate retirees programs. The members supported the idea of having such a university wide meeting of the retirees sometimes in May. Curtis and Ram will explore the logistics for holding such a meeting and the methods for funding it.

13. Goals and Directions for 2009

- Finalize the webpage (phase one) and making it accessible to public after the March 11 meeting of the Advisory Council.
- Creating awareness about the potential value of retirees through presentations to UUP, FCCC, CSEA, campus presidents, SUHRA, CUAD, and other appropriate groups.
- Getting data base on SUNY retirees through UUP, CSEA, NYSUT and the campuses (HRDs) for on-line phone directory.
- Develop Start Up Guide manual for distribution to the campuses.
- Encourage at least ten (?) campuses to institute retirees programs.
- Collect retirement stories from at least 100 SUNY retirees.