

**SUNY Retirees Service Corps  
Advisory Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 24, 2009  
1:30 – 3:30 PM in N-102 at SUNY Plaza**

**Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Tom Wolff, Jim Kalas, Anne Donnelly, Judy Wishnia, Peter Herron, Ram Chugh, Julie Peti, Tom Augustine. Ray Ortali from the UA Emeriti Center attended as a guest. On phone: Bob Kasprak and Curtis Lloyd

**1. Opening Remarks:** Tom Wolff called the meeting to order and made brief introductory remarks. He also welcomed the two new members to the Council - Bob Kasprak from SUNY Optometry (representing the Manhattan region) and Peter Herron from Suffolk CC (representing the community colleges). Tom informed the group that Susan McDermott from HVCC had decided to resign from the Council for family reasons. The members expressed appreciation for the contributions Susan made to SUNY Retirees Service Corps as a member of the Advisory Council. She was involved with the SUNY retirees' initiative from the very beginning and was its strong supporter and advocate. A letter expressing Council's gratitude and admiration for her service to RSC will be sent to Susan.

**3. March 11 Advisory Council Meeting:** The notes of the March 11 Advisory Council meeting were reviewed and approved.

**4. June 11 Executive Committee Meeting:** Tom and Jim highlighted the items discussed at the June 11 Executive Committee meeting. The notes for the June 11 meeting were distributed.

**5. Nominations for the Advisory Council:** The Advisory Council approved the following nominations:

- Alan Dunefsky, (New Paltz) - from the Mid-Hudson Region
- William Muller (HVCC) – replacement for Susan McDermott
- Gordon Gross (non-SUNY) - from the Buffalo area

The Council still needs one retiree member from the Southern Tier and one from the Western New York. The members were requested to propose names of retirees from these two regions interested in serving on the Council.

**6. Completion of the Phase I of the SUNY Retirees Web page and publicizing it:** Ram and Curtis are working with Megan Galbraith, Director of Communications at System Administration, for publicizing the availability of the retirees' web page to the campuses. Target groups include: campus presidents, retirees, directors of public relations and human resources, UUP, CSEA, NYSUT, University Senate, and other groups within and outside SUNY.

**7. Collection of Information on SUNY Retirees for Inclusion in the Webpage:** After the availability of the retirees' web page is officially communicated to the campuses, university/college relations and human resource directors would be requested to share information relating to retirees from their campuses for inclusion in the web page. Information on the following topics will be collected from the campuses.

- Campus retiree events
- Retirees in the news
- Photo gallery
- Campus voluntary opportunities

**8. Phase II of the Web page – building an online directory:** Issues relating to building an on-line directory were discussed. The IT requirements for incorporating such a directory within the retirees' web page were discussed and specific assistance it could provide. RSC will need appropriate technical support staff to collect contact information from the retirees, entering it into data base, incorporating it into the on-line directory, and then updating this directory.

**9. Student intern/staff support:** RSC can not hire a student intern because of the hiring freeze. Curtis would identify staff within HRD to provide technical support for updating the web page and assist in building the retirees' data base for the directory.

**10. SUNY ID card for Retirees:** The Council endorsed the proposal for having a SUNY ID card for retirees. A draft design of the ID card was distributed. It is expected that this card would be acceptable at all SUNY campuses. Steps to implement this proposal were discussed. Curtis was requested to share this proposal with the senior staff at System Administration and logistics for implementing it university-wide.

**11. Services Available to Retirees at SUNY Campuses:** A hand out giving the services offered to retirees at SUNY campuses was distributed. Ram also distributed another hand out containing the findings of a survey conducted by Association Retirees in Higher Education (AROHE). The AROHE survey results contained an aggregate list of services available to retirees at other institutions in the United States. The members were requested to review these lists and propose a list of services (up to ten) which should be available to retirees at SUNY campuses.

**12. University-wide Conference/Retreat for Retirees:** The Council endorsed the proposal for having a one-day conference on issues relating to SUNY retirees. The Executive Committee of the Council will serve as the conference planning committee. The planning committee will develop program for the conference and logistics for organizing it. The conference information will be shared with the council members before its finalization. The conference will be held on Thursday, November 12, from 10 AM to 3 PM, in Albany at SUNY Plaza. It was decided that a registration fee of \$15 to cover food cost be charged. It was also decided that the campus presidents be requested to send two retirees from their campuses and their travel expenses be paid through the campus sources.

**13. Update from the New York State Office of Aging (NYSOFA):** Two hand outs, prepared by Gail Myers, giving an update of NYSOFA activities relating to seniors were distributed.

**14. Update on the UUP Retirees Committee:** The Council congratulated Judy Wishnia for her being re-elected as chair of the UUP Active Retirees Committee. Judy explained the activities undertaken by this committee and through regional meetings of UUP retirees.

**15 Other Items:**

- **Suffolk CCC:** Peter Herron informed the group about the formation and working of the Suffolk CCC Retirees Association. He also talked about his long involvement with NYSUT and of its activities in support of retirees from community colleges.

- **AROHE President:** Ram informed the group that he had been corresponding with Barry Culhane, President of AROHE. Barry is from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). He had expressed strong interest in knowing the kind of activities SUNY Retirees Service Corps was planning to undertake to promote programs and services relating to retirees. Ram and Barry were planning to meet soon to discuss these items.

16. Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8 (10-12 noon) at SUNY Plaza.