

**MINUTES**  
**UNCG ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY (ARF)**  
**Annual Business Meeting and Elections**

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Wednesday, 5/18/22, 4:00-5:30 PM  
Via Zoom, Administrated by Betsy Lindsey

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**In Attendance**

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Board and other members attending this meeting: Sue Dennison, President; Betsy Lindsey, Vice President; Ken Caneva, Treasurer; Barbara Levin, Secretary; Lyn Mankoff, At-Large; Vicki McCreedy, At-Large; Nancy Ryckman; Jerry Pubantz, At-Large, Diane Gill, University Liaison; Dick Swanson, member; Barbara Carter, member. Tim Johnson, member.

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**Welcome (Sue Dennison)**

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- Sue welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves, provided an overview of meeting, and introduced Provost Storrs
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**State of the University Presentation by Provost Debbie Storrs followed by Q&A**

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- Provost Storrs came to UNCG in July 2021. She is originally from Alaska, and has a Masters and Ph.D. in Sociology from Univ. of Oregon. Taught at Univ of Idaho and then to administrative positions at the Univ. of North Dakota.
  - Highlights of 2021/2022: 49 faculty promoted and/or tenured; \$48.4 million in research funding; acknowledged efforts of faculty adjusting to teach UNCG students during the pandemic, including involving students in research.
  - Enrollment: Decline in undergraduate enrollment can be attributed to COVID, ACT/SAT test optional allows students more choices of schools, decline in transfer student, and national demographic trends. UNCG enrolled students remain diverse (e.g., first-generation students, students of color, Pell eligible).
  - UNCG noted for promoting social mobility: #1 in NC and #13 in the US.
  - Concerns about students: Lack of preparedness for higher education, less engagement, and low high school GPAs, which are effects of COVID.
  - Budget reductions: Reductions were strategic (not across the board) based on core values, strategic priorities; included merging ITS/IR and shifting responsibilities from UNCG Online to other units.
  - New program investments: Addiction Sciences curriculum (including 4 new faculty lines) and Assistant Director for Diverse Student Engagement, plus new program/curriculum in eSports.
  - Enhanced recruitment activities and Integrated Retention Plans are underway and will continue.
  - Future plans: focus on integrated student success; initiate a new QEP plan; new enrollment funding model to be led by the Chancellor along with transformation planning; Chancellor is advocating for some flexibility for performance metrics with UNCG Board of Governors and the NC Legislature; new Provost Fellows to work on target issues.
  - Responses to Q&A:
    - Addiction Sciences will be organized as an institute or a center. It is a graduate program.
    - Status of Professional Track Faculty: Provost Storrs would like to see multiple year contracts in the future; Provost's office will fund promotions for PTFs; current multiple year contracts have been honored for current PTFs and new hires.
    - In response to Jerry's question, Provost Storrs believes we need to double down on retention (e.g., UNCG asked for \$9 million for Student Success); help faculty to understand our current students so they can better engage them; not abandon our graduate programs but look at them strategically; initiate new undergraduate programs and determine low demand programs to eliminate;
      - Kitty Hawk initiative funded by legislature to provide online education to anyone in NC, which we could partner with for some of our programs/degrees – especially to tap into the market of working adult students
      - ROI study also funded by legislature to do a Return On Investment study to evaluate every program
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**Summary of ARF 2021-2022 programs, changes to By-laws, and looking ahead to 2022/2023 (Sue Dennison)**

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**Overview of ARF and activities during 2022/2023 were present by Sue:**

- Updated ARF By-laws were approved 2/24/22 (see ARF website for details)
- New committee structure was explained (see ARF website for details)

#### **Programs and events sponsored or co-sponsored by ARF:**

- Virtual presentation by AARP NC about Mobilizing Older Voters Ahead of 2020 Elections: *A Campaign to Focus on Protecting 50-plus Voters and Making Their Voices Heard* via Zoom on Thursday-9/17/20 from 11 am till 12 noon:
- Viewing of selected TED Talks via Zoom followed by group discussion:
  - *The Tyranny of Merit* by Michael Sandel, and *Debunking the Most Common Myths White People Tell about Race* by Robin DiAngelo on October 1, 2021 from 1-2:30 p.m. via Zoom
  - *Sleep is Your Super Power* by Matt Walker, and *Four Questions You Should Always Ask Your Doctor* by Christer Mjaset on November 5, 2021 from 1-2:30 p.m. via Zoom
  - *My Failed Mission to Find God-and What I Found Instead* by Anjali Kumar, and *The Boy Crisis* by Warren Farrell, on March 12, 2022, from 1-2:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Co-sponsorship of the International Human Rights Film Series in February, March, and April 2022.
  - *This is Home* (documentary about Syrian refugees), 6:30-9:30 p.m. via Zoom\* on Feb. 15. 2022
  - *Trapped* (Documentary on the debate about abortion rights), 6:30-9:30 p.m. via Zoom\* on March 15. 2022
  - *Broken Cameras* (plight of the Palestinians), 6:30-9:30 p.m. via Zoom\* on April 12, 2022
- Virtual presentation titled “Would you repeat that? Strategies for improving hearing in everyday life,” co-sponsored with UNCG Speech and Hearing Center, November 8 via Zoom from 1 – 2:30 pm.
- Virtual presentation by co-author Scott Van Pelt about his book with Arthur Levine titled “The Great Upheaval: Higher Education’s Past, Present, and Uncertain Future” via Zoom on March 23, 2022, co-sponsored with Provost’s Office and AAUP.
- Virtual presentation about *Safe Exercise for Older Folks*, presented by Ann Brady & Louisa Raisback on Wed April 6, 2022, from 1-2:30 via Zoom, co-sponsored with the Kinesiology Department.
- In-person reception for UNCG faculty and staff retiring in 2021 and 2022 was held on Friday, 4/29/22 from 2 pm-4 pm in the Oakley Family Room (formerly the Virginia Dare Room).

#### **Looking ahead to 2022/2023:**

- ARFS’s goal is to have 2 events in person, one of fall and one in spring
- Continue TED talks online
- Continue co-sponsorships with other units on campus
- Programs will be provided for retirement decisions and issues of concern to senior,
- Suggestion to join with AAUP to provide feedback/ideas to the Provost as per her invitation

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#### **ARF Financial Report (Ken Caneva)**

- Current balance is \$5870.34 in ARF account.

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#### **Election of Officers and At-Large Members for 2022/2023 (Sue and Betsy)**

- Changes in the composition of ARF Board were described by Sue Dennison earlier:
  - All nominations are for two-year terms and effective 8/1/2022.
- A slate of officers to be voted on was presented by Betsy Lindsey. Nominations from the floor for the open positions were invited, and none were offered. The Poll feature on Zoom was used to vote. Congratulations to the following:
  - President (two-year term)-Susan Dennison
  - Secretary (one-year term)-Barbara Levin
  - At Large Member (two-year term)-Lyn Mankoff
  - At Large Member (two-year term)-Nancy Ryckman
- Nancy suggested we vote for this slate of candidates by acclamation.
  - The above slate of candidates was elected by acclamation through a show of hands.

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#### **Closing (Sue)**

- Sue closed the meeting at 5:25 PM by thanking all who attended

**Action Items:**

- **Barb** will email minutes of this Annual Business Meeting to Board members for initial review; and she will forward recent photos to Simone Parker to add to our website.
- **Sue** will ask Provost Storrs for a copy of her PowerPoint presentation and send Barbara her PowerPoint to add to the website.