

MINUTES
UNCG ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY (ARF)
2023 Annual Business Meeting and Elections

Wednesday, 5/11/23, 4:00-5:30 PM
Via Zoom, Administrated by Betsy Lindsey

In Attendance

Twenty-four ARF Board and other members attending this meeting: Sue Dennison, President; Betsy Lindsey, Vice President; Ken Caneva, Treasurer; Barbara Levin, Secretary; Vicki McCready, At-Large; Nancy Ryckman; Jerry Pubantz, At-Large, Diane Gill, University Liaison; plus Dick Swanson, member; Barbara Carter, member; Sue Stinson, member; Nancy Doll, member; Deb Ball, member; Jonathan Tudge, member; Nancy Doll, member; Dick Johnson, member; Spoma Jovanic, member; Celia Hooper, member; Keith Cushman, member; David Vaughn, member; Nora Bird, member; Alan Goldfarb, member; Frank Donaldson, member; Bruce Kirchoff, member; and Provost Storrs.

Welcome (Sue Dennison)

- Sue welcomed everyone, invited them to introduce themselves and state the departments/positions they held at UNCG, provided an overview of agenda, and then introduced Provost Storrs.
 - Sue also introduced all the current ARF board members.
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Summary of ARF 2022-23 programs and looking ahead to 2023/2024 (Sue Dennison)

Overview of ARF activities during 2022/2023 was presented by Sue. Highlights including programs and events sponsored or co-sponsored by ARF:

- Membership includes 40 LIFE Members, 7 Annual Members, 7 Associate Life Members, and 1 Associate Member for a total of 55 members as of April 2023.
- Current balance in ARF account is \$5,995.73
- ARF Committee structure was described as follows:
 - Membership Committee chaired by Vice President-Betsy Lindsey with one Board member.
 - Program Committee chaired by President-Susan Dennison with one Board member and ideally one non-Board member.
 - Elections Committee intended to be chaired by past president but currently two Board members will be appointed.
 - Web page management-overseen by Secretary-Barbara Levin with tech assistance being explored currently with University Tech Services or Terri Shelton's Office
- Fall 2022 programs included:
 - *Options, Costs, & Trends in Aging Services: Learn the facts to make a more informed plan for aging at home to living in a full-time continuing Care residential setting.* This was a September 2022 presentation by Steve P. Fleming from Well-Spring.
 - *Exploring Volunteer Opportunities in the Triad.* This was a November 2022 presentation by Audrey Amos, Director of Community Engagement at The Volunteer Center
 - *Hike & picnic through Bicentennial Park, Bogs Park, and Brown Bark Park* had to be cancelled due to rainy weather. We hope to plan another one in the 2023/2024 academic year.
- Spring 2023 programs included:
 - *TED Talks:* Leslie Blackhall's "Living, dying and the problem of hope" and Catherine Price's "Why having fun is the secret to a healthier life" were shown and discussed in February 2023.
 - *ARF Social and Retirement Reception* was held on March 29, 2023, for UNCG faculty members who retired in spring 2022 through spring 2023.
 - *Susan Dennison presented suggestions for improving governance in the UNC system on behalf of ARF at the April 2023 forum sponsored by the Governor's Commission on governance of public universities in the UNC system.*

- *ARF fundraising event in April 2023 event for Spartan Open Pantry* was held in collaboration with the UNCG School of Music.

Looking ahead to 2023/2024:

- Two in-person social outings will be planned - one in fall 2023 and one in spring 2024.
- Fall 2023 presentation on “Healthy Caregiving Guidelines” has been scheduled.
- Possible downtown music event in fall to raise money for Spartan Open Pantry will be explored.
- Plan to continue having one or two TED talks next year.
- Explore collaborations with departments & programs on campus and in the community.

Suggestions for additional programs included:

- Sue invited all members to join the Program Committee or send their suggestions to her.
- Celia Hooper volunteered to reach out to ARF members who do not live close to Greensboro to share information about our online program offerings next year.
- Barbara Carter suggested we create an option to donate ahead to the Spartan Open Pantry, especially for those who cannot attend in person.

Election of Officers and At-Large Members for 2023/2024 (Sue and Betsy)

- Sue acknowledged the many contributions of ARF Board officers who have served the ARF Board for several years: Betsy Lindsay (Vice President and Zoom support), Ken Caneva (Treasurer), Jerry Pubantz (At-large member and Elections committee), and Lyn Mankoff (At-large member for 2 terms).

Introductions by three members for the following positions on the ARF Board:

- Celia Hooper, candidate for Vice-President, reviewed her various positions in HHP at UNCG for 17 years, and received her Masters degree from UNCG.
- Deb Bell, candidate for Treasurer, mentioned her 41-year tenure in the School of Theater as part of her introduction.
- Dick Swanson, candidate for At-large Member, came to UNCG in 1980 and retired fully in 2007, after serving in administrative and faculty positions in HHP/Kinesiology.

Online election conducted by Betsy Lindsey, ARF Vice-President

- Everyone who was nominated received 100% of the votes.

State of the University Presentation by Provost Debbie Storrs followed by Q&A

- Provost Storrs focused her comments on academic affairs as follows: Hired a new Dean of the Grad School and new Dean of the Library. Twenty-one faculty were promoted to Full Professor and 21 to Associate Professor with tenure. Commented on robust faculty research productivity and grant activity (\$182 million). Academic Affairs has expanded its faculty fellows’ opportunities. Provost Storrs also identified two faculty to assist her with faculty development opportunities. She also mentioned several faculty development opportunities offered this year.
- Additional points made in Provost Storrs presentation:
 - Enrollment is almost back to pre-pandemic levels with regard to retention and academic standing. Many fewer academic withdrawals, so retention activities are paying off.
 - Effort to focus on new pathways to promotion for Professional Track Faculty who no longer have multiple year contracts. This is funded by the Provost’s office rather than colleges.
 - Training offered to new department chairs.
 - Planning for library renovation is underway and on track, and Provost Storrs suggested ARF invite the new Dean to share their plans.
 - Held a number of Open Space sessions to engage faculty in discussion of important issues and ideas for the future of UNCG. Ideas that arise are then shared and can potentially be implemented. For example, in the School of Nursing fatigue about meetings was addressed, number of committees reduced, curriculum deadlines were changed, and a new forum to meet with graduates was created.
 - Also created a new *Be You Campaign* to address UNCG students.
 - *Light the Way* campaign is going well: raised \$167 million out of \$200 million goal so far.

- Provost Storrs also highlighted several challenges for UNCG due to new state budget allocations and declining enrollment trends. For example, in NC only 55% of high school graduates enroll in college immediately, and only 32% go to UNC schools. Also, several contiguous states are offering in-state tuition to NC students.
- Fall 2023 enrollment looks good for first-year students, and transfer numbers are also good, but continuing undergrad enrollment remains a problem. Graduate enrollment is down slightly, and UNCG anticipates a 2% decline in head count and credit hours.
 - Enrollment Management is working hard on many fronts, especially reaching out to students who have stopped out, which has been successful in re-enrolling students.
- Academic Portfolio Review of all programs is coming, and a taskforce has been created. Both qualitative and quantitative data will be considered. Rubrics for evaluation will be ready for the faculty this fall.
- Provost Storrs also mentioned a taskforce for financial stability that has finished its work and will report out soon.

Closing (Sue)

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