

HSU-ERFSA Coordinating Committee January 6, 2022, Meeting Notes

In attendance: Marshelle Thobaben, Rollin Richmond, Ken Fulgham, Jeffry Borgeld, James Floss, Susan Dobie

Opening Discussions: Discussed the need to send Spring presentations to the listserv soon. Marshelle will follow up with Bernadette.

Plaza Grill meetings: Feb. 10th, March 10th. With 700 cases of COVID to the Omicron variant in Humboldt County, we will probably still be on Zoom for the February and March presentations. (February 10: Fernando Paz, coordinator of the Latinx Center for Academic Excellence; March 10: Berit Potter, an ERFSA award winner from the Department of Art; April 14: Arne Jacobsen, Environmental resources engineer; May 12: Rafael Cuevas Uribe, of Fisheries Biology.) Ken will notify the Caterer.

Membership update: We have 36 members now with one joining just the day before. Problem with the electronic sign-ups do not show some names.

Humboldt Now (January 17 edition): James is preparing a story for Humboldt Now (January 17 edition) for faculty, lectures, and staff that are retiring in the spring. It is to encourage them to join ERFSA and to apply for emeritus status before the Spring Semester deadline of February 1.

Treasurer's Report: ERFSA good standing financially with a total of \$52,405 reported for November HAF Account. The December report will arrive later this month and then we can close the books on 2021.

Other business:

- With the COVID Omicron variant spreading in Humboldt County, we will investigate changing the date for the HSU-ERFSA reception at Septentrio Winery, 650 6th Street, to March 16 if the date is available.
- A short discussion followed on how to rename HSU-ERFSA when Humboldt becomes a polytechnic institution.
- HSU-ERFSA small grants applications are due on April 8; we will send out an announcement by March 4.
- Discussed the need to update Parking Code for ERFSA members: currently staff and lectures are not currently eligible. Will follow-up with Frank Whitlatch, our administrative liaison.

Webpage: There was general agreement that our website looks good, but we discussed possible changes:

- We agreed that moving how to apply for emeritus status to a more prominent position is a good idea; we talked about moving it to the left and upward in the main body instead of in a box on the right. The list of Coordinating Committee members would be placed into the second box on the right.
- We discussed changing colors but that might be problematic because most HSU websites have been striving for design consistency and conformity.
- It was suggested that there may be too many photos at the top of the page.

We agreed that there should be a FAQ section: Jeffrey Borgeld will draft said FAQ and send out for editing

- Distinguishing between CSU-ERFSA and HSU-ERFSA membership and dues.
- Clarifying FERPING policies (Faculty early retirement). You are retired when you begin receiving a pension from CalPERS

Email issues: A discussion ensued about encouraging retiring Faculty and Staff to back up important HSU emails to a personal account. We wondered if anyone losing email privileges can ask for them back. This will be investigated. Email accounts need to be “active”.

Updates

- Faculty and Staff Eligibility for the Wellness Program and Gym Membership Memo: Notice sent to HSU-ERFSA listserv on Dec. 19, 2021
- Applying for Emeritus Status Applications due Feb.1st. Notice was sent to HSU-ERFSA listserv on Jan 3, 2022 & University Senate Chair had the memo forwarded for campus distribution.
- Change in Eligibility for Email: Notified members of the new policy on Jan. 3, 2022.

Finally: We had a short discussion of how people who retired in the past without direct supervisors to write recommendations can attain emeritus status. There is a mechanism in place: it becomes the responsibility of the ERFSA Coordinating Committee to review applications and pass them forward. We did this for an applicant yesterday; it was approved by the Coordinating Committee.

--Submitted by James Floss, Friday, January 7, 2022