

GA-HERO

Georgia Association of Higher Education Retiree Organizations Executive Committee Meeting/Board of Directors Meeting

2:00-3:00 pm

Held remotely on Zoom

Minutes

February 7, 2024

Present: David Boyd (Valdosta State University), Mitch Clifton (University of West Georgia), Missy Cody (Georgia State University – Co-President), Gray Crouse (Emory University – Treasurer), Harry Dangel (Georgia State University), Dave Ewert (Georgia State University), Marilynne McKay (Emory University – Co-President), David Muschell (Georgia College and State University), Carol Pope (Kennesaw State University, webmaster), Anne Richards (University of West Georgia, Secretary), Ted Wadley (Georgia State University), Holly York (Emory University), Dorothy Zinsmeister (Kennesaw State University).

1. Marilynne **called the meeting to order** at 2:00 pm and informed attendees who might not have checked their email recently of the revised agenda sent out for today's meeting. She also reminded attendees of the importance of having a liaison with AROHE from each retiree association. This would be a person who gets information about when dues are to be paid and has continuity with AROHE when terms end for those serving as officers of their retiree organization.
2. Missy Cody opened discussion regarding the **scheduling of a meet-up** similar to the one held in Cartersville in 2023. She proposed holding one in March or April either in the Atlanta area or Milledgeville - and mentioned that Ted Wadley had recommended the latter because it is located close to the center of the state, is the site of the new Georgia History Center, has "strong literary connections" to Flannery O'Connor, and, for many years, was the site of the Georgia Governor's mansion. Missy said it would be ideal to find a location that would make it possible for a guest speaker to be heard via Zoom for those who couldn't attend in person while those who wanted to make the trip a mini-vacation could find appealing lodging and restaurants. In addition to hearing a speaker, having lunch, and hearing about best practices from retiree organizations, Missy described the meet-up as providing opportunities for greater social engagement and, hopefully, serving as a more easily accessible place for folks living in south Georgia.

David Muschell of GCSU said he always enjoys welcoming people to Milledgeville and thought it would be a good place for GA-HERO to visit. He explained that it would be hard to find space on the GCSU campus in March and April as the semester ended. In addition, the GCSU retiree organization already had a major event planned for May. He thought June would be an ideal time for a meet-up on the GCSU campus. Parking and meeting place space would be more readily available

then and he would have adequate time to meet with the GCSU retiree association to plan for the event.

It was agreed by consensus that Friday, June 7, 2024, would be a good date under these circumstances. David Muschell mentioned that the only charge for the event would be paying for catering the lunch. Zoom access is now available in nearly all conference rooms at GCSU. The new President of GCSU (Cathy Cox) is very supportive of the retiree organization on campus and is a great speaker. In addition to the traditional highlight tours – the Old Governor’s Mansion, Flanner O’Connor’s Andalusia Farm, and walks downtown - tours of the Central State Hospital can also be arranged that provide a very interesting overview of the history of mental health in the state.

Missy asked if it would be ok for her to contact the Milledgeville Visitor’s and Convention Bureau and David readily stated it would.

3. Marilynne explained that the work of a **Nominating Committee** was soon to begin, and reminded attendees that GA-HERO operates on a fiscal calendar from July 2024 to July 2026. At the present time, the primary person on the Nominating Committee is Gray Crouse. Marilynne also mentioned that the presidency of the group would be open to new leadership and she considered it important to prepare the organization for this change. Describing the recent presentation made by Sue Barnes to GA-HERO as “very instructive,” she underscored the significance of AROHE in offering many resources to incoming leadership in any retiree organization and the importance of GA-HERO and individual institutions sustaining a relationship with AROHE.
4. Marilynne noted the **absence of a representative to GA-HERO from Columbus State University**. In the past, Dutchie Riggsby served in that role, but she has not been heard from recently. Also, a person who has served as an alternate for her at USG Retiree Council (USGRC) meetings, is not well. Dorothy Zinsmeister recommended that Marilynne look at the CSU retiree association website (CSURO) to find a person who could serve as a GA-HERO representative for CSU. Marilynne agreed to make that contact.
5. A list of schools that appeared on the revised agenda (provided by Dorothy Zinsmeister) indicated which among them Marilynne was able to confirm as having updated **contact information for a liaison with AROHE** (Albany State University, Emory University, Georgia College and State University, Georgia Southern, Georgia Tech, Kennesaw State University, Perimeter College, Valdosta State University), and which she could not (Clayton State, Columbus State, Georgia State University, and University of West Georgia).

A discussion took place regarding some of the liaison names listed, focusing on whether they were up to date or not. Carol Pope questioned whether Kathy

Rodgers was the right person listed for KSU since Glynnis Holt is currently the admin person in the office where the retiree association reports.

Marilynne reported that the list of USG institutions affiliated with AROHE is missing several schools in Georgia, e.g., Augusta, UGA. It was recommended that Nancy McDuff be contacted about UGA.

Marilynne said she wanted to take care of such loose ends as a way of getting the GA-HERO organization ready for the next persons who will consider serving it in leadership roles. She sees this review as the equivalent of getting a property ready to show to others who might be willing to purchase it.

6. Gray Crouse reported that over 1000 persons attended **AROHE's first webinar in the "Reimagining Retirement" series**. There was no charge for those accessing this first webinar, sub-titled "Reframing Your Identity." Two more in the series will be aired. On February 13th, 2024, the focus will be on "Reimagining Your Personalized Plan." On February 27th, 2024, the focus will be on "Rebuilding Your Network." In the meantime, the first webinar has been recorded and is available at the following link (which does not require logging in to the AROHE site):
<https://www.arohe.org/Reimagining-Retirement/>

Each webinar is one hour long and has been sponsored by Fidelity.

7. Dorothy Zinsmeister asked about the **status of plans for an Albany State University retiree association/center**. From all Marilynne and Missy have been able to determine, there is a "wish" for Albany State to have a retiree organization or center, but no action has yet been taken to move in this direction. Dorothy Zinsmeister suggested that the presentation made by Sue Barnes be sent to all who were on the Zoom meeting held October 24, 2023, to discuss this matter.
8. **Next meeting:** It was agreed that the next meeting of GA-HERO would be on March 6, 2024. from 2-3 pm. We will learn at that meeting what David Muschell finds out about scheduling a possible meet-up in June, 2024.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Anne C. Richards
Secretary