

**Eastern Michigan University**  
**Emeritus Faculty and Staff Association Executive Board Meeting**  
**April 5, 2023**

Present: Jean Bush-Bacelis, Gerald V. "Skip" Lawver, Sally McCracken, Glenna Frank Miller, Barbara Scheffer, and Alida Westman.

*Ex officio:* Howard Booth, Emeritus Faculty Representative to the Foundation and Jill Hunsberger, Associate Vice President for Advancement

The meeting was by Zoom and called to order at 10:06 a.m.

The minutes of December 7, 2022, and March 1, 2023, were approved unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Sally McCracken reported** that she is working to make ordering theater tickets by the emeriti easier. Currently the placement of the box in which to put the password for the emeriti is at the very beginning of the first website page, and many people look past it. Putting the box on the second page would make spotting it easier and the process smoother.
- B. Sally emailed emeriti for their ideas on presentations.** She received many ideas for the Program Committee and for discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. The Program Committee consisting of Jean Bush-Bacelis and Glenna Frank Miller** produced a detailed, extensive outline for incorporating a Program Committee in the bylaws, inviting emeriti back to campus, bringing speakers to Emeritus Association events, asking emeriti about the programs presented and programs they would be interested in, and interest groups with which the Emeritus Association may want to collaborate.
- B. The Spring Business Meeting** on May 19 from 12 to 3 pm will feature a presentation by Richard Douglass on the US healthcare system. He will discuss ways in which it is very costly and ineffective and ways in which it can be improved. It is an area he taught and his book was published recently by Cambridge Scholars and is entitled *The Evolution of the US Healthcare System: A Legacy of Opportunism and Greed*.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Richard Douglass and Barry (Dave) Painter are resigning from the Emeritus Association Executive Board;** however, Richard will continue the scholarship page on the emeritus website. Sally McCracken will honor them at the May Membership Meeting.
- B. Discussion of programs for emeriti** led to the following considerations. First, the idea of a programming committee is very welcome. It is worth trying out and incorporating it in the bylaws if it works out. Jean Bush-Bacelis and Glenna Frank Miller will work on programs for the coming year. Second, the Emeritus Association has no budget of its own. The Provost's office and the Foundation pay for events; therefore, drawing on

local resources is very important. For example, the Center for Jewish Studies may be willing to fund a trip to the Michigan Holocaust museum. Such a trip also could involve alumni and current students. Third, collaboration with the Alumni Association would be very helpful, because they engage in many activities, including field trips. Sally McCracken will meet with the incoming president of the Alumni Association this summer. Fourth, many activities can involve emeriti, alumni, and current students, such as the Undergraduate and Graduate Symposiums and ongoing physical activity groups. Fifth, for activities that require a bus, people should cover their own expenses. For example, a trip to museums in Ann Arbor would be easier by bus, because it alleviates the need to get parking and drop-off can be right at the door. Sixth, it is important to avoid topics which may cause friction, so political topics, for example, should be avoided. Seventh, EMU no longer offers retirement seminars and being able to present information about preparation for retirement, social security, etc. is very important. This is an area in which collaboration with Jeff Angeliu from HR is critical and HR may be willing to fund the event(s). This would provide Sally McCracken the opportunity to inform faculty and staff about the Emeritus Association and how to become a member. Very helpful would be handouts for later reference. Jean Bush-Bacelis indicated that the COB has an organizational development class for which students need to do a project, and these students could provide a retirement presentation for faculty and for staff. Eighth, when more event are offered it becomes easier to publicize them more frequently. Ninth, it is not clear how to keep presentations in which a number of people will talk on schedule, because people tend to talk too long. Perhaps fewer people should be invited to talk or perhaps people should be asked questions decided on beforehand and be told to limit themselves to brief answers to each question. Tenth, many emeriti enjoy retirement and do not want to have any organizations call on them to dutifully do things. Many want to take trips and visit places. This is especially true early during retirement. Eleventh, as outreach to people who live farther away, it may be possible to have them join via Zoom. Perhaps the Emeritus Association can set up its own YouTube channel where videos of events are made available. Twelfth, programs should be determined at least a year in advance. Rooms may need to be booked moe than a year in advance.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Jill Hunsberger reported** that Mr. Halle has died but funding was approved by Mrs. Halle for a reconstruction of the first floor of the Halle library. The first floor houses many centers, such as the Holman Success Center, the Writing Center, the Center for Jewish Studies, a center with computers for students to use, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be on Zoom on May 3 to go over the Agenda for the Spring Business meeting.