

University Senate Retirees Rights and Benefits Committee
Minutes for Meeting, October 9, 2019

Attending: Chris Brown, Jo Cink, Paul Laird, Ed Martinko

Our first meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year was a discussion of the FY 2019 committee report and the committee's charges. We first considered the issue of promoting all appropriate means of communication with retirees about their needs and concerns. In an effort to reach retirees who are not members of the Endacott Society, Chris Brown suggested that we send out emails through Kathy Reed and the KU Governance email account. Suggestions for where we might get lists of retirees included asking Julie Murray in the Chancellor's Office about retirees who might appear on the Christmas Party list and we might be able to get a list of new retirees from either Melissa Cole or Madi Vannaman in HR Benefits. **Paul Laird will make these contacts.**

One of our charges is to consult with SenEx about matters related to retirees. Kathy Reed assures us that our committee will hear when such matters arise.

Last year the committee surveyed retiree policies at peer institutions to help identify additional low-cost steps that KU might be able to take to make the university more "retiree friendly." **Paul Laird will contact last year's chair Elspeth Healey to see what progress was made in this search.** Ed Martinko spoke about the possibility of KU building more apartments for retirees on or near campus and wondered if there might be KU retirees who would want to donate money to such a project. We agreed to do some research on the web to see what some of our peer institutions might offer in the way of such residences. **Ed Martinko agreed to look into such offerings at IU-Bloomington, Michigan State, SUNY/Buffalo, Colorado, and Florida. Jo Cink agreed to do so at Iowa, Missouri-Columbia, UNC-Chapel Hill, Oregon, and Virginia.** Ed Martinko remembered that such a facility was talked about at KU in years past, perhaps to be built on West Campus. **Paul Laird will contact Monte Soukup at the KUEA concerning the history of such a project.**

Concerning the committee's charge to work with HR to develop additional current information about the process of retirement and related issues, **Paul Laird agreed to stay in touch with Madi Vannaman at HR.** Chris Brown praised HR's work in this area in terms of providing valuable seminars and working with faculty members individually. He also reported that KU Libraries has had seminars with faculty members about preserving their scholarly legacies through donations of materials to KU Libraries. Chris Brown would like the committee to discuss other such programming that KU might offer to faculty members contemplating retirement.

The committee is also charged to look into the possibility of an official KU Retirees web site. There was general agreement that this was a good idea. **Chris Brown suggested that it perhaps could be piggybacked onto the Endacott Society's web site and perhaps HR could maintain it. He agreed to contact HR about this.**

Last year's committee talked about the possibility of adding more people to the committee, especially another active faculty member. **Paul Laird agreed to speak to Kathy Reed about this possibility.**

We adjourned at about 3:40 PM. Our next meeting will be scheduled through a Doodle Poll in early or middle November.

Respectfully submitted by:

Paul Laird
Chair, FY 2019 Retirees Rights and Benefits Committee