

**MINUTES**  
**Retirees Rights and Benefits Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday, 10/3, 10:00-11:00am, Room 33 Strong Hall

**Present:** Chris Brown, Elspeth Healey (Chair), Doug Houston, Allen Wichert; Guests: Felix Moos, Ellen Slikker

**Absent:** Mark Ferrell, Ruth Hatfield, Barbara Menke, Amy Big Eagle

**I. Introductions**

-Committee members and visiting guest introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes from Fall 2016 meeting**

-Previous meeting minutes were discussed, but since several of last year's members present at the previous meeting were absent, it was decided that the minutes would be approved via email so that more of the committee could weigh in on them.

**III. Review of Committee Charges**

-Committee members reviewed the charges, with particular attention given to the Retiree Handbook and how to reconcile its many existing versions (see minutes from October 28, 2016 meeting for additional information on this issue). The need for a paper version of the handbook for retirees was raised; however, last October the committee received a reply from HR that paper versions would not be circulated as it is harder to keep the paper versions up-to-date. Doug Houston volunteered to spearhead initial investigations into the Retiree Handbook.

-The committee also discussed the need to update the committee website (Opportunities 60+: <https://retirees.drupal.ku.edu/ku-retirees>) started by a former Chair John Younger. It was decided to coordinate with KU governance staff (the administrators for the site) to unpublish the website until it can be updated.

**IV. New Business**

- a. **Visit from Professor Emeritus Felix Moos to discuss his KU Silverhawk proposal (please see initial brief summary below)**

**THE KU SILVERHAWK INITIATIVE**

A voluntary initiative that would mobilize the experience and expertise of retired faculty members to enrich the education/teaching mission of the University of Kansas.

(It is understood that some retirees are already engaging in such activities, and thus this initiative would give formal recognition and a distinctive name to such volunteer efforts.)

Purpose: to enhance, strengthen, and augment KU's comprehensive education and teaching mission at low cost.

To be determined for the initiative:

- areas of KU Silverhawk volunteer expertise and availability for classroom teaching in the various KU academic Departments and Honors Program(s)
- mechanism for gathering and providing access to KU Silverhawk volunteer profiles

-Some retired faculty members who are still active in their field may want to continue to advance the teaching mission of the university by offering their services in semester-long classes and as guest lecturers to supplement existing educational resources; the KU Silverhawk initiative would seek to

facilitate this, providing a forum for and a means of formally recognizing those who would like to continue to serve the university in this manner.

- The question of payment of volunteers was raised; some retired faculty who teach classes are paid; others, such as those who teach for the Honors program, are not.
- What process would exist (if any) for vetting Silverhawk volunteers?
- Would it be possible to compile information on which retirees are currently teaching and what they are teaching?
- Chris Brown noted that such a program may dovetail with the University's interest in supporting KU faculty from the date of hiring through after their retirement.
- What would be the best mechanism for exploring this proposal further? Task force? Ad hoc committee?
- The Committee Chair, Elspeth Healey, will approach SenEx about bringing forward the proposal to them at a future SenEx meeting.

#### **V. Scheduling of upcoming committee meetings and annual meeting with the Endacott Society**

-Elspeth will schedule a time to meet with the Endacott Society in late October/Early November at one of their regular Wednesday meetings in order to update them on the issues before the committee this year and to seek their input on issues relating to retirees.

#### **Action Items:**

- Doug Houston and Elspeth Healey will explore reconciling the versions of the Retirees Handbook and will contact HR regarding procedures for updating the information in the Handbook.
- Elspeth Healey will contact SenEx regarding next steps for exploring the KU Silverhawk Initiative.
- Elspeth will coordinate with KU Governance staff to “unpublish” the KU Retirees Website (Opportunities for 60+, <https://retirees.drupal.ku.edu/>) until it can be revised and updated.

#### **Resources:**

FY 2018 Committee page: <https://governance.ku.edu/rbfbfy2018>

KU Retirees Website (*Opportunities for 60+*): <https://retirees.drupal.ku.edu/> [incomplete / in progress]