

## MINUTES

### Retirees Rights and Benefits Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 1/16/2018, 10:00-11:00am, Room 33 Strong Hall

**Present:** Chris Brown, Dennis Constance, Elspeth Healey (Chair), Doug Houston

**Absent:** Mark Ferrell, Amy Big Eagle (excused), Ruth Hatfield (excused), Allen Wiechert (Wiechert has delegated Endacott representation to Doug Houston)

The meeting began with the introduction of Dennis Constance, a new member to the committee as the Retired University Support Staff representative.

#### I. Approval of draft minutes from October 3, 2017 meeting (originally distributed to committee by email 10/9/2017)

- Minutes approved without emendations.

#### II. Old Business

##### a. Brief review of updates sent by email 12/7/2017, including status of Silverhawk proposal

- The committee chair gave a brief review of the update email sent out on 12/7/2017. The full list of committee updates may be viewed on the new committee Blackboard site: Course Documents>> December 2017 Retirees Rights and Benefits updates.
- The most notable update was that at present FacEx has decided not to move ahead with the KU Silverhawk proposal. This was due primarily to concerns about the labor needed to implement and maintain data on volunteers and the sense that volunteers already have a forum for making their services available through contact with their former departments. Please see the December 2017 updates document for a full account of the meetings with Senex and FacEx regarding the proposal. The committee will take no further action at this time.

#### III. New Business

##### a. Committee workspace

- Kathy Reed has provided the committee with access to a Blackboard site as a clearinghouse to share committee documents and engage in collaborative work. Committee members have been added to the site as Teaching Assistants.
- To access the site, navigate to <https://courseware.ku.edu/> and login using your KU ID and password. Once you login, you should see a link for “[UGAC000-007: University Senate Committee: Retirees Rights and Benefits](#)” under the box titled “My Courses.” When you click on the link for UGAC000-007 it will bring you to the committee’s blackboard site. On the left-hand navigation menu, you will see the following links:

▼ **University Senate Committee: Retirees Rights and Benefits (UGAC000-007)**

- Announcements
- FY2018 Committee Information
- FY 2018 Agenda/Minutes
- Retirees Handbook
- Assignments
- Course Documents
- Discussion Board
- My Grades
- Send Email

*New Announcement. the top of the list and announcements.*

**Create Announcement**

**New announcement**

**No Announcements**

- All committee documents for FY2018 can be found at the “Course Documents” tab. The committee membership and charges are located under the “FY2018 Committee Information” tab, and this year’s agendas and minutes are located under the “FY 2018 Agenda/Minutes Tab.” The current copy of the Retiree Handbook and the link to the wiki for the handbook revision process are located under the “Retirees Handbook” tab. (Additional information and instructions for the handbook revision process are provided in section IIIc. below). If you have any questions about how to access or use the committee blackboard site, please feel free to contact Elspeth Healey. Any documents that the Chair sends out over email, should also have a copy deposited under the “Course Documents” tab.

**b. Report on Endacott Society visit (1/10/2018), including a summary of issues and suggestions raised by Endacott Society members during this meeting**

The report pasted below can also be found on the blackboard site:

**UGAC000-007>>course documents>>Endacott Society Meeting Notes--January 2018**

Endacott Society Meeting Notes  
1/10/2018

On January 10, 2018, committee chair Elspeth Healey and committee member Doug Houston met with a group of approximately 40-60 Endacott Society members, as facilitated by

Endacott Society President Allen Wiechert. Healey provided a brief update on the committee's activities to-date this year and solicited feedback on retiree concerns and suggestions. The comments offered at the meeting are summarized below, clustered by subject.

### **Parking**

- Suggestion that the Retiree Handbook include a price in the entry on parking and note that for an extra \$5 you can park in the Mississippi street lot after 5:00pm. Suggestion that this \$5 rate be extended to the full day for retirees.
- Parking issues severely limit access to campus; difficulty in finding parking, inconvenience of parking locations. One retiree reported that she doesn't come for events because she can't park in the Mississippi Street garage with her current credit card.
- Current location of KU IT presents a parking problem (see "IT" below).
- Difficulty of Parking near KU Libraries locations (see "KU Libraries" below).

### **KU Libraries**

- Suggestion to expand the KU Libraries entry in the handbook to explain that you can request that books be delivered to any library branch (and list return locations). The entry might also address whether Interlibrary Loan is available to retirees.
- Another retiree spoke favorably of the libraries but noted that parking is an issue.
- Suggestion that the libraries might develop a list of book recommendations for retirees (both related to retirement and suggestions for pleasure reading more generally).
- Suggestion to add additional drop box locations for books.
- One retiree suggested making the Adams Alumni Center as a potential place that you could have books delivered and picked up (as they do for faculty members' offices).

### **IT**

- Suggestion that there be an Endacott or retiree representative on some university-wide searches, such as the search for the Chief Information Officer (CIO).
- One retiree spoke favorably of the IT services and assistance KU provides to retirees, but wondered if the free access to Office 365 could be extended to retirees.
- The current location of KU IT presents a parking problem. Perhaps the handbook could note where people can park to get to the new location by Daisy Hill.

### **HealthQuest**

Can retirees participate in HealthQuest screenings? If not, why, not?

- Doug Houston has looked into this and unfortunately the answer is no, and this is a state-level matter, not just KU. This might be a subject for further conversation with HR since it is true that many retirees could benefit from the counselling, workshops, and other services that HealthQuest offers.

#### Lied Center

- One retiree noted that the Lied Center makes one free ticket a year available to retirees, though others weren't certain whether that was still the case. If it is, it should be noted in the Lied Center entry.
- Another retiree advocated that past free admission to the Lied Center be returned.

#### Additional Issues:

- Women's club section in the retiree handbook is out-of-date. The phrase "women's graduates" has since been replaced with "graduates." The committee should contact Janis Hutchison for the revised language for the entry.
- Suggestion to revive the retirement committee subgroup within the Endacott Society in order to have an active group within the society considering retirees' issues on a weekly/biweekly basis and acting as a liaison to the KU Governance committee.
- Privileges lost by Endacott Society members (and presumably retirees more broadly) in recent years are listed on the Endacott society website in the [2013 Retirees Rights and Benefits Committee Report](#). With the loss of privileges in mind, one retiree advocated for more TLC for (and attention to?) retirees in the absence of these privileges. For example, extend the "Take a Professor to Lunch" program to retirees.
- During the discussion of the Endacott Society meeting, the committee members present discussed how best to address some of the Endacott Society concerns. Elspeth Healey will contact the libraries regarding the issues raised relating to the libraries. Doug Houston will pursue the issue of retiree participation in HealthQuest workshops, screenings, and counselling. Since this is a state-level matter, Vice-Provost Chris Brown suggested finding out who is responsible for negotiating the contract with the outside vendor overseeing the HealthQuest program (Cerner) and querying whether the contract could be renegotiated to allow for retiree participation. The issue might also be pursued by contacting state representatives Tom Sloan and Marci Francisco.

#### **c. Process for reviewing and updating the Retiree Handbook.**

- The committee is now undertaking the process of revising the Retiree Handbook (official title: “Information for University Retirees and Phased/Prospective Retirees”), which has not been updated since 17 May 2015.
- The most recently updated public version of the retiree handbook (17 May 2015) is located at:  
<http://humanresources.ku.edu/sites/humanresources.drupal.ku.edu/files/docs/Information%20for%20University%20Retirees%20and%20Phased%20or%20Prospective%20Retirees.pdf>
- Under the “Retirees Handbook” tab on the Blackboard site, committee members will find links to the current handbook and a past version from 2014. There is also a link to the blackboard wiki, which members should use in the revision process. The revision process is outlined in the document titled: “Guidelines and Instructions for the Retirees Handbook Revision Process” (Handbook\_Revision\_Instructions.doc) which is located in the “Course Documents” part of the Blackboard site and attached to the email accompanying these minutes.
- Committee members should sign up to be responsible for updating entries in the handbook as outlined in the “Guidelines and Instructions for the Retirees Handbook Revision Process.”
- As Vice-Provost Chris Brown noted at the meeting, our goal is to garner and record as many privileges benefiting retirees as possible!

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am

#### **Action Items:**

- Committee members should sign up for revising individual entries in the Retirees Handbook (see “Guidelines and Instructions for the Retirees Handbook Revision Process” on Blackboard) and submit those revisions to the blackboard wiki by **February 10**.
- Elspeth Healey will contact KU Libraries regarding Endacott Society suggestions concerning the Libraries.
- Doug Houston will pursue the issue of opening up participation in HealthQuest workshops and counselling to retirees.

#### **Resources:**

- Retirees Rights and Benefits Blackboard Site: <https://courseware.ku.edu/> (login and look for the link for “UGAC000-007: University Senate Committee: Retirees Rights and Benefits” under “My Courses”).
- “Guidelines and Instructions for the Retirees Handbook Revision Process” (Blackboard site under “Course Documents”).
- FY 2018 Committee page: <https://governance.ku.edu/rrbfy2018>
- Retiree Handbook (17 May 2015):  
<http://humanresources.ku.edu/sites/humanresources.drupal.ku.edu/files/docs/Information%20for%20University%20Retirees%20and%20Phased%20or%20Prospective%20Retirees.pdf>