Minutes of the
ANNUAL MEETING
Arizona State University Retirees Association
April 12, 2014, 1:00-3:00pm

Prior to the beginning of the formal meeting, members in attendance enjoyed time for casual conversation and light refreshments.

Welcome

President Barry McNeill opened the formal meeting at 1:10 by welcoming everyone and asking them to introduce themselves to their neighbors.

Barry reported that the seminars were very successful this year and thanked Jan Thompson and her Seminars Committee for their work. Barry pointed out the activities in which ASURA has been involved this year, reviewed work of the Financial Committee, noted that membership is up, and that the Golf Tournament, under the direction of David Schwalm and the Tournament Committee, was the largest fundraising activity. Retirees Day had to be cancelled due to low attendance. Several Liaison positions in the Association were vacant during the past year. Barry indicated that he had touched on only a few items in the Annual Report and encouraged everyone to read it in its entirety. He thanked the Board, the Committee Chairs, the Liaisons, the Office Staff and others for their work in making the past year very successful.

Preliminary Results of Membership Survey

Barry McNeill reported on the Membership Survey, types of surveys, numbers of surveys sent out, and the return results. The Surveys offer many insights for the Board to consider to improve the Association. He thanked Carol Moore, Nancy Lesko, Jeannette Robson, and Linda Van Scoy for their effort in assisting with the Survey. Barry highlighted the responses to questions addressing participation in ASURA activities, and to the importance of various activities.

Remarks from Scholarship Recipient

Sue Blumer, Co-chair of the ASURA Scholarship Committee, thanked the members for supporting the Scholarship program, and commended the Committee members for their work on selecting the recipient. She introduced Tomas Espinosa, a mechanical engineering student with extensive experience in community service and the recipient of the ASURA 2013-14 Scholarship. Espinosa then spoke, thanking the Association for its support and speaking about this background, his interest in engineering and energy technology, and his participation in community service activities. He anticipates a career in energy technology, economic growth, and sustainability. He indicated that as a result of the support from ASURA, he will now be able to enter graduate school and pursue a master’s degree in engineering.
Video History Project

Dave Scheatzle presented the Video History Project, which has completed 96 interviews of ASU retirees. The objective is to edit the interviews and make them available on-line via the ASU Library to the public. They are also collaborating with Mark Tebeau, Director of the Public History Project at ASU. Dave demonstrated the website access by playing portions of several interviews.

Remarks from ASU President Michael Crow

Barry McNeill introduced President Crow, who thanked the members of the Association for their contributions to the University during their careers and their service since. President Crow discussed the direction and emphasis on ASU in the context of higher education in the U.S. and the University’s contributions to the society. He indicated that when he joined ASU, he set a goal for the University to increase its research and the number of graduates and graduation rates. ASU has worked to give access to all qualified students regardless of background, and at present the undergraduate student population parallels the socio-economic diversity of the state as a whole. ASU is doing this to encourage talent, which comes from all socio-economic sectors – ASU will admit every student who meets the admission requirements. ASU is the largest producer of Pell-eligible graduates, of Hispanic graduates, and of Native American graduates, and the fourth largest producer of African-American graduates. ASU has the lowest cost per graduate among research universities in the U.S. Research funding has quadrupled to over $400 million. ASU is in the top ten for nearly every award that can be given to undergraduates. President Crow noted that ASU students are terrific, as good any student at any institution, and they have a special tenacity and grittiness to them. ASU’s objective is to retain 90% of its freshmen, and have a graduation rate that exceeds 75%.

Introduction of New Board Members and Officers

Barry McNeill introduced the incoming President, Jo Madonna, and passed the gavel to her. Jo introduced the new Board members, recognized the continuing Board members, and introduced the Executive Committee. Jo thanked Barry McNeill for his service as President and for a tremendously productive year under his leadership, highlighted his accomplishments, and presented him with a commemorative gift from the Association.

Closing Remarks

Jo Madonna reminded everyone of coming events and offered bon voyage to those who are traveling with an ASURA sponsored trip.

Adjournment

Jo Madonna adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.