

RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION

at the

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

The Second Decade, 2002 to 2012

INTRODUCTION

During the 2001-02 academic year, charter members of the Retired Faculty Association, led by Eleanor May and Chester Titus, both board members at the time, prepared a history of the association's first ten years. The anniversary was celebrated on November 12, 2001, at the annual luncheon sponsored by President John T. Casteen III at Alumni Hall.

That first history contains valuable information about discussions that led to the association's founding, the support of the president's office, issues of concern that were raised in subsequent years, and rosters of the officers, board members and luncheon speakers. Minutes of the January 13, 2004, board meeting note that copies of the history, along with the 1997 constitution and the most recent membership list, were to be distributed at the next meeting on March 9.

The current document is intended as an extension of that history. Based primarily on minutes of the board meetings, it records trends in the RFA financial situation and membership, as well as updated lists of officers, board members and luncheon speakers. It also records the board's engagement in responding to one of the University's most momentous events during this period. Secretary Carolyn Kelly and Member-at-Large Louise Dudley have been primarily responsible for compiling this information, with the assistance of President Lincoln Lewis and other members of the board. Grateful acknowledgement is given to Dan Mohler, a past president, for providing copies of the report on the association's first decade.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the association, as stated in its constitution, has not changed: "The RFA will provide a means for communication between the University and its retired faculty, and permit the scheduling of special events and programs for its members on a continuing basis." A list of the selected speakers is appended to this report.

OUTREACH TO THE UNIVERSITY

In mid-June 2012, the sudden resignation of University President Teresa Sullivan at the unexpected (and largely unexplained) request of the Board of Visitors prompted the decade's major communication from the RFA to the University. The board endorsed the sending of a letter to the Faculty Senate supporting the actions taken by the Faculty Senate in connection with the stepping down of President Sullivan. President Sullivan was reinstated by unanimous vote of the Board of Visitors at a special meeting on June 26, 2012.

The small grants program established in 1996 to support graduate students doing research in areas of gerontology became problematic during this decade. In March 2003, noting that the most recent grant had not produced a report or a completed project, the RFA board decided that any future awards should recognize exceptional work completed, rather than proposed projects. At the board's next meeting, they decided to discontinue the prize. However, in March 2006, after consulting with Dr. Mark Williams at the University's Institute for Aging, the board decided to give an award to a student who was studying aging. At the June meeting that year, Dr. Seki Balogun received the first Recognition Award for Excellence in the Education on Aging; a \$1,000 student award was to be considered in the future. In 2007, faculty and students working on gerontology-related projects in any school of the University were now considered eligible, though no award was made. Having thus expanded the pool, the board decided in October 2011 not to reinstate the award because the selection process appeared to be too complicated.

MEMBERSHIP

At the end of the association's first decade, there were 231 paid memberships, some for a single retiree and many for a retiree and spouse. Dues, which are the same for either a single or dual membership, were raised from \$15 to \$20 in 2001-02. There has been no increase since then.

No doubt reflecting a larger number of faculty members retiring from the University, the number of paid memberships has increased, reaching a high of 306 in March 2010. The average number over the past decade was 277.

The treasury balance has likewise grown, in part because the awards program described above was discontinued. From the \$3,095.94 reported at the June 2003 board meeting, it has increased to an average year-end balance of \$6,383, with a high of \$7,504.06 in June 2011. The balance reported by Treasurer Chester Titus in June 2012 was less: \$6,681.55. Eighteen fewer members than the previous year and the failure of luncheon registrations to cover the cost of meals at the Omni account for almost all of the decline.

The board continued to promote renewal and new memberships, alerting all retired faculty members by letter each fall to the benefits of joining the association and attending its various events. The RFA website, www.virginia.edu/retiredfaculty/, was launched in April 2007 with the assistance of Julie Riddleberger in the University's department of mathematics, who designed the site and later gave it a facelift in October 2011. She now receives a modest stipend for updating the site. In addition, the University's Human Resources website contains brief information on the RFA in a section titled "Perks for Retirees."

MEETINGS

President Casteen generously continued to host annual spring luncheons at Alumni Hall for the RFA throughout his presidency, either speaking personally or arranging for a senior administrator to address the group in his place if he were out of town. His remarks often took the form of a state-of-the-University update. President Sullivan continued this tradition in the spring of 2011, speaking to the association during her first year in office. No such luncheon was held in 2012 because of the difficulty in finding a suitable date.

In addition, three luncheons featuring University faculty members as speakers were held each year at the Omni Hotel. These usually occurred in September, January and March, although in 2011 the schedule was altered to September, January and February. Attendance averaged 122, with two highly popular occasions reaching 161 and 183. Five of the luncheons attracted fewer than 100 people, which meant that the revenue was not high enough to cover the Omni's minimum. In part to counter this problem, the per-person luncheon fee, including parking, was increased from \$19 to \$22 in the fall of 2006.

Spring receptions near the end of each academic year were held at the Colonnade Club. To help predict the number of attendees more accurately, as well as to cover part of the cost, the board decided to charge a modest -- \$5 or \$10 -- per-person fee. These events were generally well attended.

LUNCHEON SPEAKERS AT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Gene Block, January 2002
Dr. Richard Guerrant, March 2002
Dr. Richard Lindsay, September 2002

Leonard Sandridge, January 2003
Rita Dove, March 2003
Nesta Ramazani, September 2003

Susan Stein, January 2004
David Weiss, March 2004
Terry Holland, September 2004

Jane Henley, January 2005
Jonathan Moreno, March 2005
Larry Sabato, September 2005

Ed Ayers, January 2006
Dr. Mark Williams, March 2006
Alex Horniman, September 2006

James Aylor, January 2007
Dr. Bankole Johnson, March 2007
Abdulaziz Sachedina, Sept. 2007

David Gies, January 2008
Bill Kelso, March 2008
Bob Gibson, October 2008

Bob Chapel, January 2009
Robert Bruner, March 2009
Gov. Gerald Baliles, Sept. 2009

Leonard Sandridge, January 2010
A.E. Dick Howard, March 2010
Ed Burton, September 2010

Gordon Stewart, February 2011
Dr. Stephen DeKosky, Sept. 2011
Josipa Roksa, October 2011

LUNCHEON SPEAKERS (cont.)

Richard Kent, February 2012
Brian O'Connor, September 2012
Paul Freedman, November 2012

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION

2001-2003

Bruce Nelson, President
Dan Mohler, Vice President
Helen Snook, Secretary
Chester Titus, Treasurer
Anne E.H. Freudenberg/Eugene Paige, Member-at-large
Grover C. Pitts/Peggy Floyd, Member-at-large

2003-2005

Dan Mohler, President
Eugene Paige, Vice President
Helen Snook, Secretary
Chester Titus, Treasurer
Peggy Floyd, Member-at-large
Bob Fair, Member-at-large

2005-2007

Eugene Page, President
Bob Fair, Vice President
Dieter Groschel, Secretary
Chester Titus, Treasurer
Dan Mohler, Past President (2005 only)
Mary Wagner, Member-at-large
Jim Kauzlarich, Member-at-large (beginning 2006)

2007-2009

Bob Fair, President
Taylor Beard, Vice President
Dieter Groschel, Secretary
Chester Titus, Treasurer
Eugene Paige, Past President
Jim Kauzlarich, Member-at-large
Lincoln Lewis, Member-at-large
Marita McClymonds, Member-at-large (beginning 2008)

2009-2011

Taylor Beard, President
Lincoln Lewis, Vice President
Gene Corrigan, Secretary
Chester Titus, Treasurer
Jim Kauzlarich, Member-at-large
Jim Craig, Member-at-large
Larry Pettit, Member-at-large

2011-2013

Lincoln Lewis, President
Larry Pettit, Vice President
Carolyn Kelly, Secretary
Chester Titus, Treasurer
Taylor Beard, Past President
Gene Corrigan, Member-at-large
Jim Kauzlarich, Member-at-large
Jim Craig, Member-at-large
Louise Dudley, Member-at-large

Note: On September 20, 2011, the association voted to amend the bylaws to allow the board to be composed of the officers and “at least three” other board members.