Members Present: Elaine Beaudoin, Alice Farrell, Jerry Goldman, Phil Kemp, Dick Meister, Nancy Rospenda, Denny Shea
Members Absent: Fr. Udovic

The meeting opened with approval of minutes of the last meeting. Elaine then moved on to plans for the May luncheon. Since she will not be present, Dick has agreed to head the meeting portion of the luncheon, with Jerry overseeing the election portion. If no one nominates anyone from the floor, a simple voice vote from the floor to elect the two candidates is acceptable. If someone is nominated from the floor, ballots on the tables will be used for a paper election. Any person nominated will have to be present and accept the nomination. After this election, Dick will take over the meeting and remind the membership to sign the notecards on the tables. These will be sent to members not present. Dick will remind the members to pick up parking coupons if they parked in the DePaul garages and ask members to consider joining one of the four DES committees. He will also mention the passing of Dick Houk and Virginia Rutherford. Denny will introduce the seven scholarship recipients. Two recipients have agreed to attend the luncheon thus far. He will also present a summary of the financial status of the scholarship program and remind members of the matching funds from Mission and Values.

Alice reported that there are two new retirees; by the end of June there should be a few more. She has received 27 replies thus far for the May luncheon. Denny mentioned that he will be distributing surveys to anyone who hasn’t yet completed one; he will also gladly hand out donation envelopes. Susan Solway will be the guest speaker at the luncheon. She will describe the new Arts building and then conduct a tour after the luncheon. Alice will be in contact with Dr. Solway to confirm A/V arrangements. David Sims has agreed to take photos.

Also at the luncheon, if Jerry has received clarification from BCBS and HR, he will share his understanding of the BCBS carve-out program as it relates to using out-of-network service providers and physicians who don’t accept Medicare and how this impacts retirees. Hopefully he will have more information from BCBS and HR as to how health care benefits will be affected.

The fall luncheon will take place on October 19. May 17, 2013 has been set for next year’s spring luncheon. It was suggested that the DePaul a cappella choir be asked to sing at the October luncheon since no field trip will take place. Alice agreed on behalf of the DES to reimburse the choir for performing if they present a bill. The May 17 luncheon will be held in the Loop and it was suggested that deans be invited to speak.
about their respective colleges, with a tour of the Loop campus a possibility after the luncheon.

Denny reported that 57 surveys have been returned, similar to last survey’s response. A follow-up letter will be sent out and by the August DES Steering Committee meeting the results should be compiled. These results will be presented at the October luncheon. They will also be compared to the results obtained by the last survey. Each response is coded by zip code. These results will also be reported in the winter newsletter.

Following this, Denny announced that there were seven scholarship recipients for 2011-2012, each receiving approximately $2000, with $15,268 in DES Scholarships distributed this year. The Office of Financial Aid selected these new recipients in accord with federal, state, and University policy regarding academic scholarships under University control. The selection process used was in accord with an Office of Advancement new memo of understanding, dated January 25, 2012, for the Administration and Processing of the DES Scholarships, and deleted the criterion that colleges must be represented on a rotating basis and replaced it with the criterion that DES Scholarship recipients be those with the highest levels of financial need as determined by the Office of Financial Aid. In addition, that new memo was drawn up because of the matching gift provided by Mission and Values last fall which resulted in our awarding multiple scholarships for the first time. Denny distributed that January 25th memo to DES Steering Committee members. Since participation rate is up among retirees and we have a matching grant from Mission and Values of up to $15,000 DES was able to distribute more funding this year. March 15 is when Financial Aid determines how much money will be available for scholarships. DES is building a base for this scholarship; over time the amount available will be much larger due to the matching funds from M&V. This scholarship is awarded to upperclassmen and covers approximately 28% of an individual's spring quarter tuition. A question was raised as to whether the DES should increase the amount of the award or increase the number of recipients. Feedback from Financial Aid will be sought, although $2000 seemed to be a good amount.

Denny also reported that Sarah Schneider of Advancement informed him a few days prior to our April 19th Steering Committee meeting that the interim DES Giving Report of January 19, 2012 was incorrect. She was unable to provide correct data for that January report (see attached).

Jerry raised the issue of paying providers who do not accept Medicare assignments and how this affects members in the carve-out benefits program. Jerry has been working with BCBS for several months to get clarity on this point but it is still not clear how much BCBS will cover or even how the calculations are determined. Jerry is waiting for a response from BCBS as to these calculations of benefits. Retirees should be aware of the consequences of using providers who do not accept Medicare assignments since it could have a financial impact on them. The financial aspects of this are very important if the physician does not accept Medicare since he will only be reimbursed what BCBS estimates Medicare will pay and the patient could be liable for the remainder of the bill. Retirees should be receiving this information so they can make a responsible choice.
Jerry will also check with Rosa about any changes in benefits with regard to Payflex receiving insurance payments instead of the University. If Jerry has information, he will inform retirees at the May luncheon about the implications of this benefit choice and ask if anyone has been impacted by this.

Phil reported that there was some discussion regarding DES outings. Should they be offered in connection with luncheons, should they be independent, or should they piggyback with other University events? Holding a ‘field trip’ before a luncheon does not seem to be a good idea. Having an outing at the end of a luncheon or held in conjunction with another University event seems to work out better. He felt that outings should be presented to the members and they could indicate their interest in what is presented. One idea put forth was an event with the Chicago Historical Society on how the city has impacted DePaul or how DePaul has impacted the city. Phil felt that if an outing is held separate from the luncheon people will still attend. Alice suggested that a continental breakfast be offered to members and then a trolley could transport them to the field trip location. This could be presented at the next luncheon.

The possibility of putting together a DES group for Service Day was suggested. Transportation would be provided. A sign-up sheet would be available at the fall luncheon to ascertain members’ interest in a Service Day project. Since retirees are involved in other volunteer activities, Phil thought an informal survey could be taken of what members are involved in outside of the University.

DES Steering Committee members will be the next people interviewed for the Oral History Project. The five to six new retirees will also be interviewed. These will be scheduled for spring by Alice. All interview questions are open-ended and given to the interviewees previous to the interview. A University time-line is available on the web.

A question was raised by a long-term employee as to why one can receive benefits if one retires with 20 years of service at 55 or 10 years at 62, but one cannot receive benefits if one wants to retire at 45 with 25 years of service.

There have been over 10,000 hits on the DES blog, with 130 to 140 per week.

Elaine thanked Denny for his 8 years of service on both the Staff Emeritus Society and the DES board and presented him with a token of our appreciation. Denny has agreed to help the incoming staff member transition to the position. Denny thanked the board and stated that he had a lot of great memories associated with his membership. He felt that it was important that others get involved in board membership.

The next meeting will take place on June 7 at Noon to elect officers, appoint committee chairs and cover any outstanding items.