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

Elaine welcomed the members of the committee and asked Alice if there were any new retirees since our last meeting. Since there were none, the meeting moved to the approval of the minutes of the last meeting.

Discussion then turned to the May 17 luncheon. Bob Janis has confirmed that he will speak at the next luncheon. Invitations will be mailed in early April. Admissions has also volunteered to provide a guide if any retirees are interested in touring the downtown campus. The tour guide should be someone who will gear his/her voice tone and rate of speech so it is appropriate for retirees.

At the last meeting the question of adding another person to the committee was raised. This topic was revisited. At present there is not a great deal of turnover on the committee. At the same time it is difficult to get retirees to serve. It seems they are willing to help but not be on a committee. The committee is now a manageable size, but we should also plan for change and movement. Possibly those retirees who don’t live in the area should have a voice on the committee via a representative? Maybe a solution would be to keep the six positions we now have, but ask two others to sit in on meetings.

Discussion continued. Since there are co-chairs for the scholarship committee, possibly there should be a co-chair for the program committee. There will be an election in May to fill two spaces on the committee. Since there are two people already willing to run (Sue and Nancy), possibly we could have an election by acclamation. Eight positions on the committee give us more flexibility. We could have a slate of four. Every committee could then have co-chairs. Dick moved that we increase the size of the executive committee from six to eight, with four faculty and four staff. Doris seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dick volunteered to contact the above-mentioned faculty to encourage two of them to agree to serve. Then a slate could be presented at the upcoming luncheon. Three three-year slots and one two-year slot are needed at this time. The two faculty and Nancy would be the three-year and Susan would be the two-year. When Susan’s position comes up for re-election it would revert to a three-year term. This slate announcement should be sent out with the luncheon invitation.

Alice announced that the invitation to be included in the retiree directory will be sent out in February. The request will be worded so that the particular retiree will have to opt in to the directory and will have to state what information should be included. New retirees
will also be asked for this opt-in in their welcome letter, and a reminder will be included in the next newsletter. The directory will not be hidden behind Campus Connect. Opting in is not the same as keeping their e-mail address.

In committee reports, Dick announced that notes were sent out before break to thank retirees for their donations to the scholarship fund. Sarah will give Alice any new donor names. Thus far this year, 52 gifts have been received, totaling $12,890. We need another $2100 to reach our goal of $15,000. Contributions are ahead of last year. Each newsletter should include something about the scholarship fund.

The process for selection of scholarship recipients is already in place. It was suggested that if the recipient(s) cannot attend the luncheon in person, a photo and short bio should be displayed at the luncheon so retirees can see them one way or another and learn more about the recipients, such as their majors. There will be seven recipients again this spring, receiving $2000 each. This amount seems to do the greatest good for the largest number.

Doris contacted someone in Alumni Relations as to the possibility of retirees being invited to receptions and events held in other cities. Since she has not heard back as to whether this is a possibility, she will nudge the person involved. She has also confirmed that no duplicate requests for donations will be sent to retirees. They will only receive the DES scholarship request for donations.

Since Phil was not present, Alice announced that Helen Marlborough and Kathryn DeGraff’s oral histories have been completed. Harry Wray and Margaret Powers have volunteered but have not been scheduled as yet. Alice will contact them for times, as well as contacting Tom Stinchcomb.

A tour of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum was approved by the retirees at the last luncheon. Everyone agreed to pay for the tour if necessary. Thirteen retirees expressed interest in this tour; twelve expressed interest in the Chicago Historical Society tour. Alice is currently working with Georgie on the budget for this project. The Peggy Notebaert Museum is closer to the Lincoln Park Campus and seems to be better organized. This event could be scheduled in June; this would spread out DES events somewhat. Alice commented that it would be easier for her to plan an event in June, since the academic year would have ended.

A possible project for Susan or Helen would be to coordinate the Service Day project. This is usually held on the first Saturday in May. Retirees should be notified about it.

Jerry had a number of announcements. He first stated that Gretchen’s replacement is Dorothy Bailey (312-362-8496). The comprehensive benefits list is still not available. Rosa is supposed to be working on compiling the list. She stated that the benefits are on the website. HR has agreed to write something up for each newsletter. There is a new VP of benefits. HR distributed the flash drives as promised at the last luncheon. With Obamacare changes, more providers may opt out of Medicare.
PayFlex scared a lot of retirees. Many did not understand the coupons or the PayFlex codes. Everyone on the executive committee had concerns about PayFlex. Their communication with retirees was very poor. Jerry has agreed to speak to Rosa about these issues. A question was asked as to whether HR can contact retirees if they have not heard from the retiree by the end of January? Some retirees may not understand what PayFlex sends out and may involuntarily remove themselves from insurance.

Elaine asked if the number of people who visit the DES website can be determined. Alice agreed to ask Brian if that can be done. The DES News Update gets about 200 visits per week; there are now 35 retirees on Facebook. The News Update now has contacts and the guidelines statement. Elaine asked if the DES survey results can be put on there too, as well as on the website.

The next meeting will be held on April 30.