Members Present: Elaine Beaudoin, Alice Farrell, Jerry Goldman, Jack Leahy, Dick Meister, Nancy Rospenda, Denny Shea

The meeting opened with approval of the minutes. Discussion then turned to the October luncheon. Everyone agreed that the luncheon was a success, due in part to an interesting menu and another interesting speaker. It appeared that there was more member interaction before the luncheon itself. A number of new members were present. It was also agreed that we should continue to schedule the luncheons for Fridays. The next luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 20, 2011.

Jack informed the committee that 20 DES members have expressed an interest in going to the DuSable Museum. This tour would take place the morning of the May luncheon. He contacted the museum and discovered that the admission fee would be $7 for seniors and $5 for Chicago residents. Alice added that the cost of the trolley would probably be around $140 to $150, but needed to confirm the cost. If possible, a guided tour would be better than just wandering. This would keep the group together and control the time spent there. Starting time for the spring luncheon could be pushed back to 12:30 p.m. to accommodate the time frame for this tour. It was suggested that a small fee be charged for the bus tour, perhaps $5.00. This might make people more committed and eliminate the expectation that all future events would be without charge. Information will be sent out with the spring luncheon invitation. Alice suggested that it would be easier to collect cash the day of the tour than to request payment by check in advance. One possible use for the money collected could be to add to the DES Scholarship. The new DePaul art gallery was suggested as a future tour site.

The next item on the agenda was the upcoming election. Jack Leahy announced that he will be withdrawing from his position as of June, 2011. Thus the next election will include a three-year term for Elaine’s position, a three-year term for Jerry Goldman’s position, and a two-year term for Jack’s position. A mailing will be sent out in February requesting nominations for these positions. The elections should be completed by the end of March and announcements can take place at the May luncheon.

Denny informed the committee that 230 solicitation letters have been sent out. Last year, $7,600 was raised; this year Sarah informed Denny that DES has raised $12,000. This figure means that the scholarship fund may be or already is a designated fund. Denny wanted to confirm the dollar amount reported. Dick Meister further suggested, once it is confirmed that the DES Scholarship is fully funded at $50,000, new monies raised be divided: half to the endowment and half distributed to the scholarship recipient. This would allow a much larger annual distribution. The committee agreed to take up this issue at the next Steering Committee meeting. It was suggested that someone from Development be asked to give DES advice on how to break the new funds up. Two years ago, 37 members contributed; last year 47 members contributed. Thus far this year, 40
members have already sent in a contribution. Denny felt that the Steans Challenge might have been a factor in increased contributions. The second batch of letters to those who have not yet contributed will be sent out soon. The notes that Dick and Denny include in letters are also an incentive for members to contribute.

Jack reported on the activities of the Special Events and Projects Committee. He agreed to visit the DuSable Museum to check out prices, availability of a tour guide, a group discount, etc. With regard to interviews being conducted by his committee, he stated that Fr. Richardson is working on his memoirs and thus will not be interviewed until they are completed.

Alice reported that all remaining DES information will be posted on our web site in the next few months including DES newsletters, originating document, Steering Committee minutes, excerpts from completed interviews, etc. Personal information will be deleted from any newsletters posted. This project will be completed by the next luncheon in May. The date for the October luncheon will be posted on the site.

Our new blog, set up by Elaine, had 15 visitors to view Nancy Gall’s obituary. Mission and Values is a major gateway to the blog. Google and Facebook are also gateways. The memorial entries seemed to be the most viewed. Human Resources will provide the names of deceased faculty who would have been eligible for DES membership but died prior to retirement. These names will be added to the obituary section. Jeanne LaDuke has agreed to assist with this project. Thus far, 1,423 people have visited the blog site. The blog seems to be a more popular site than Facebook for DES members, possibly because there is no registration involved. Along with Facebook and the blog, the web site plays a role. No one will be forgotten.

Jerry announced that nothing new has developed involving the benefits committee. Jerry will contact his committee and possibly hold a meeting in the near future if there are any concerns expressed by the committee members.

A suggestion was made that the DES might consider orchestrating an event, e.g., a meeting, luncheon or one-on-one, for the benefit of those employees thinking about retiring so they can pick DES members’ brains about the nonfinancial aspects of retirement. Members can volunteer to meet with these employees and talk to them about retirement. A possible discussion of aspects of retirement could also be placed on the blog site.

Denny suggested that another survey be taken of DES members since it has been three years since the last one was completed. The society has changed a great deal since then. Members should be asked what they need and what they want from the DES. This would allow feedback from members as to what they would like from the society. The agenda for the next meeting should include a discussion of the survey.

The next meeting will be held in April.