

Houston Baptist University
Retirees' Association

Minutes of February 13, 2015 Luncheon Meeting in Dillon II of the Hinton Building

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 by Chair, Ruth Ann Williamson. She welcomed everyone and introduced guests and new members. Harold Raley gave the invocation.

After lunch as the "A Word from our Sponsors" part of the program, Dr. Dianne Reed from the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences described the proposed new HBU doctoral program in Executive Educational Leadership. It will be HBU's first doctoral program. This cohort program will equip people who already have a master's degree in educational leadership or management to assume roles in top-level educational leadership and/or academia. It will require 63 hours of course work focused around three core areas: leadership, research and management. It is anticipated that after SACS approval, the program will begin in the fall of 2016 with 10-15 students. An HBU Doctoral Center will provide students with research and dissertation support. If the anticipated TEA approval is granted on March 6, students will have the option of earning Superintendent Certification.

Don Byrnes then introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Sloan, the University's president. Dr. Sloan described happenings at HBU and plans for the future. These included that

- The dome will soon be placed on the Belin Tower which will be an 85 foot tall landmark structure for HBU.
- The freshman class this year was larger than in past years.
- On campus housing is at capacity, and 45% of undergraduates now live on campus.
- HBU now has ½ of a football stadium and a football team that is generating energy/enthusiasm on campus and increased alumni support and interaction.
- The "throw-back" uniforms of the all decades basketball teams, the publications/presentations of Lee Stroebel, and the Center for Law and Liberty have garnered much publicity for the University.
- HBU will soon launch a multi-year 130 million dollar capital campaign that will fund future growth including additional on-campus housing, a new science building, a building for the Center for Law and Liberty, an arena and other things.
- Credo, a program to increase student engagement and retention is underway and has already resulted in an increase in student retention.

Old Business

Online luncheon registration for this luncheon was discussed. Most reported that the process worked smoothly for them. Members were asked to indicate if they would like their future communications from the Retirees Association to come through email.

New Business

Updating of contact information was requested, and it was reported that, as in past years, the Retirees Association has purchased a table at the University Celebration on April 24.

Officer Reports

Assistant Chair, Don Byrnes, overviewed the April 10 Luncheon: Dr. Bob Linder will present a view of Houston from the conductor's podium. The "Word from our Sponsor" will come from Amy Youngblood about HBU Alumni organization and activities.

Secretary, Linda Brupbacher, presented the minutes from the October 10, 2014 luncheon meeting which were approved as printed.

Treasurer, Daton Dodson, reported that there was \$455.18 in the University account and \$4,766.61 in our Retirees' account.

Membership Officer, Shari Wescott, reported that we now have 66 members and asked that she be notified of changes in contact information before the directory is printed this spring.

Member-at-Large, Jon Suter, reported that the Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 26, 11:30-1 pm in the Parlor of the Hodo Residence College to discuss *I Am Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes. The plot concerns a former intelligence agent who wrote a book on forensic pathology and then becomes involved in a case where someone uses the book to commit untraceable murders. Movie rights have been purchased by MGM and a series of movies is planned, similar to the Bond series.

Member-at-Large, Harold Raley, reported that Jerry and Virginia Gaultney are now living in Austin and that Virginia's eyesight has improved.

University Liaison, Candace Desrosiers announced that reservations for the Houston Symphony presentation in Dunham Theater on February 28 are closed. However, there will be overflow seating and no one will be turned away. Seating is first come, first serve. She also announced an evening with Lee Stroebel on March 1 at 5:30.

Announcements

The next Book Club meeting will be February 16 and the next luncheon meeting on April 10.

Adjournment

Chair, Ruth Ann Williamson, read a valentine's poem by Joanna Fox based on 1 Corinthians 13 and then the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Brupbacher, Secretary