SJSU ERFA Newsletter Summer 2022 Volume 35 Number 4 A Newsletter of the SJSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

Calendar

Events for fall are being discussed at a Special Meeting of the Board on July 11. You will be notified well in advance of the dates.

A year of Zooms and Webinars

President's Message By Jackie Snell

This has been an interesting year to be President of our group. For the entire year I continued to learn about Zoom meetings and Webinars. As we age it is good to have reasons to stay up-to-date with technology. I thank you all for that opportunity.

Luckily, our first almost-post-covid activity, the October visit to History San Jose, took place in person. It was great to see people, chat, and learn about SJ history. The webinars were enlightening. The one on the CalPERS Long-Term Care debacle helped me untangle the two separate issues: the increase in premiums and the lawsuit regarding a previous increase. Terry Christiansen gave us a lesson in San Jose politics in time to vote in the June primary. The update from Provost Vincent Del Casino on how well SJSU fared through the pandemic taught us that, among other good trends and unlike many universities, our enrollment increased. Even better, graduation rates continue to improve.

At our annual May business meeting, we got to "meet" the Interim President Steve Perez virtually, and to learn about the research we helped to fund through the ERFA Research and Creative Activity awards. Steve is engaging and a bit of a cheerleader, a good thing in my book.

We don't know yet who all might be in the running as our next President, but I would be happy if Steve gets to stay for the long term. At the end of each commencement ceremony this spring he stood by the exit door and bumped fists with all faculty who participated. Faculty haven't always felt appreciated by every previous President. This was refreshing.

It is difficult to choose a high point, but the performance of the SJSU Choraliers at the holidays is a strong contender. Students gave superb performances,

lightened by a bit of costuming. Dr Jeffrey Benson explained the intricacies of turning individual performances into a Zoom chorus, and his students mastered the technology as well as the music.

Altogether it has been a gratifying year. Although we all long for more in- person communication, I'm grateful for the ability to get together virtually. I can barely imagine what the pandemic would be like without that.

Special thanks go to the Executive Board for helping to keep me on track and smoothing out the technology for me.

The uplifting excitement of graduation

By Judith Lessow-Hurley

The request was for me to attend the Lurie College of Education graduation as an ERFA representative. It seemed like an interesting and fun thing to do, and I hadn't been to a commencement ceremony in a while so I agreed. I have always found them exciting and uplifting. And this time would offer something new for me as SJSU commencement ceremonies are now held college by college over a period of three days, each one attended by the President. (Talk about earning your keep!)

I attended a short rehearsal, dusted off my regalia and on Thursday evening I headed for the event center. The campus was packed with graduates and their families and friends, some from an earlier ceremony, some gathering for ours, and the excitement was palpable. I made my way to the 'Green Room' and was delighted to greet old colleagues and friends and meet new ones. The graduation staff and crew were welcoming and helpful. An assortment of food and drink was available in the gathering areas along with those essential graduation tools . . .mirrors, safety pins and bobby pins.

The music for the processional was live, and the procession was met with a burst of cheers and applause from the entire gathering. Each and every graduate and credential recipient was called up on the stage by name, greeted by Interim President Steve Perez, and handed an SJSU diploma case. Many of them were the first in their families to attend college, and knowing that made the ceremony all the more important and beautiful. The joy in the audience could not be contained.

I admit it, I cry at commencement ceremonies. And sitting up on the platform as hundreds of graduating students walked by was deeply moving. San José State

University is truly transformative. The collective endeavor that is our university changes peoples' lives and changes the world.

Touring Northern Ireland During the Pandemic by Jo Bell Whitlatch

Three friends and I toured Northern Ireland (part of the UK) with Road Scholar in May 2022. The tour covered Belfast, Derry/LondonDerry, Glenveagh National Park and Castle, Leo's Tavern - birthplace of Clannad and Enya, and included two UNESCO World Heritage sites – the Giant's Causeway on the Antrim Coast, and Bru na Boinne (New Grange and Knowth sites). We were accompanied by two excellent guides, both from the Limerick area in the Republic of Ireland.

We really enjoyed the tour itinerary and learning about Irish history and culture. I had a special interest as my "Bell" ancestors came from Scotland to the Ulster Plantation in Northern Ireland in the late 1600s, then emigrated to Pennsylvania in the 1740s. The tour was in Northern Ireland during the elections. For the first time, Sinn Fein overtook the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and won the most seats. However, all appeared peaceful during the elections; the only protest our group witnessed was against the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Our initial tour group was 20 people, but quickly dropped to 18 after one individual became sick and tested positive for COVID. (Road Scholar assisted with making arrangements for quarantining with her companion until she tested negative.) At the end of the tour, two additional people tested positive. (One of the people had gone to dinner with the person who tested positive at the beginning of the tour.) We left the two people in quarantine, in the final hotel, assisted by Road Scholar personnel. Because four of us were traveling together, we probably would not have socialized as much as some others in the group; however, I think that concerns about COVID also limited socialization within the tour group.

We flew into and out of Dublin, so we returned to the Republic of Ireland at the end of the tour and extended our trip by three days in Dublin. Fortunately for us, we all tested negative the night before flying home and were able to celebrate our final evening at a wonderful small restaurant "The Winding Stair," which is located above a bookshop in Dublin. Unfortunately our pandemic experiences were not quite at an end. The Dublin airport webpage advised us to arrive 3 hours before our flight departed. We actually arrived 3.5 hours before departure and made the flight only 15 minutes before takeoff! After an hour in line to get our boarding passes, signs advised us that check-in would close in 10 min. The

security line took another hour. Then customs pre-clearance involved going through security all over again!

So, fellow travelers, beware! COVID has complicated the nature of travel in more ways than you might think. Would I do it again? Yes, I really enjoyed the trip and all the new perspectives on Irish history, despite the pandemic!

Did You Know?

By Tim Hegstrom

1. Emeritus Faculty are eligible to join the new Spartan Recreation and Aquatic Center (SRAC) on campus. Ryan Fetzer, Director of SRAC, explains that Emeritus and Retired Faculty can purchase a membership at the student/faculty rate at the front desk. Here's a link to the membership website:

https://www.spartanrecreation.com/membership

2. Seniors can ride the VTA light rail or bus system for \$1 (single trip). That's a good reason not to drive when you make that occasional trip to campus.

https://www.vta.org/go/fares#tab-senior--65-----disabled

- 3. Emeritus faculty can use the Adobe Express design software provided FREE to all faculty, students, and staff at the university. It makes it easy to design posters, webpages, and videos. Adobe Express is included in the Adobe license. To get your license and for more information see Adobe web page.
- 4. Reminder: Your SJSU parking pass needs to be renewed in June. Go to https://sjsu.t2hosted.com/Account/Portal, scroll down and click on "Get Permit." Click on "Affiliated Login." Use your SJSUOne ID and password to sign in. You will see different permit options. Follow the directions for renewing your annual pass. If you need assistance, call SJSU Parking Services at 408-924-6557.

In previous newsletters, we have discussed how retired lecturers may obtain Emeritus status and who to contact to get your Tower ID card updated for campus access. Read back copies of the newsletter at https://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/newsletter.php.

Chat Room; Special News From & About our Members.

This column contains news about travels and activities volunteered by the membership. Members are invited to send news about themselves to Nancie Fimbel at fimbeln@gmail.com or by snail mail at 239 Cypress Point Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043

Phyllis Connolly (Nursing, '11), living on the Central Coast of CA, will assume the role of host of the ERFA Nursing Zoom meetings. The next meeting is Wed., Sept. 14 at 3 pm. Those interested should send an email to connollydr@gmail.com.

Dave Elliott (Communication Studies, '93) reports that he and Pat recently celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary. They have been living happily in an assisted living facility for almost seven years now. He will be 92 in August and Pat is "already there."

Michael Fallon (Sociology, '17) completed a condensed version of James Joyce's novel Ulysses. This was a project conceived in 2008 after inheriting from his grandfather one of the first copies of the book to be published in the US (1934). Michael was further encouraged by SJSU Professor Matt Spangler (Communication Studies) and an SJSU graduate hosting him for Bloomsday Week 2013 in Dublin when the book entered the public domain. Offering comparative outlines with Homer's Odyssey, overviews, and motifs for each of the episodes, and surgically selecting the essential text, Michael has compiled a version of the book that is approximately half the length of the original. It is readable, digestible and enjoyable. He now seeks a literary agent and/or publisher in this 100th anniversary year of the publication of Ulysses in Europe. Anne Fountain (World Languages & Literature '12) and Mike Conniff recently went on two cruises, on which Mike spoke about the islands and ports-of-call visited. The Dec. trip hit Central American ports plus Jamaica, and the March one the Dutch islands and Barbados. Mike was able to meet with colleagues in Panama and Bridgetown.

Larry Gerston (Political Science, '09) has published a new Spencer Spider book, Spencer Spider Helps a Friend. This third one is about self-esteem. On another front, Garrick Percival, Mary Currin-Percival and Larry will publish California's Recall Election of Gavin Newsom: The Politics of Political Reform in the Era of COVID in August. This is Larry's third book since "retiring" in 2009! He's currently researching/writing Trumpism, Racism, and the Decline of American Democracy for Lexington Books, and he's in his 42nd year as political analyst for NBC Bay Area News.

Michael S. Katz (Secondary Ed, '09) reports that, after graduating from high school, his oldest granddaughter will do a gap year in Jerusalem next year and then attend Tulane on a National Merit Scholarship. Michael's daughter, with a B.A. and Master's degrees from Columbia, was promoted to be a health care manager of nine major health clinics for San Mateo County. She previously was a financial manager overseeing many clinical areas for San Mateo County. And finally, Michael recently attended the Annual Meeting of the National Philosophy of Education. As a past president of this society, he and Lonna Smith, who arranged the conferences for almost a decade, were honored.

Sigurd Meldal (Computer Engineering, '15) has a company, "Mostly Sunny," that is successfully continuing to help in intellectual property risk assessment processes. Of late, he is mostly assisting in federal court cases dealing with security technologies. Meldal serves on the Executive Committee of the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. At home, he has installed solar panels and batteries, becoming pretty much independent of PG&E. In sum, he says, he's "living well."

Anne Simonson (Art, '16) is a member of the curriculum committee of the Santa Clara University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). She encourages us to check out the course offerings at https://www.scu.edu/osher/course-offerings-registration/ and urges us to suggest course ideas. The OLLI offers approximately 70 new courses each year, taught by faculty and retired faculty from SJSU, SCU, Stanford, and elsewhere. She hopes we'll join her in some of the courses!

Kim S. Uhlik (Recreation '11) was among the honorees at the 2020-2021 MLK Library Faculty Authors and Artists Celebration held in April, for his solo art exhibition "Color+Shape." His video, among others, can be viewed at: https://library.sjsu.edu/faculty-services/aaac/2020? <a href="https://libr

PayPal or Check: Paying Your Annual ERFA Dues

The ERFA Web Administrator and the ERFA Membership Committee are pleased to let you know that starting this summer – Summer 2022 – you will be able to pay your annual dues either by check, as you have in the past, or by PayPal. PayPal is a new option that we are now able to provide to you from a link from our ERFA webpage.

When the dues reminder email comes out in late June, it will include directions to first fill out the online renewal form, and then to pay your \$24 annual dues either by check, mailed to our Treasurer, or through PayPal. The direct link to PayPal will be available at the end of the online form and is also available from our website:

https://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/membership/renew.php

Please pay your 2022-2023 dues with the method that is most convenient for you. If you are interested we hope that you will take advantage of our new option to pay your dues electronically through PayPal.

President Perez Addresses the May MeetingBy Don Keesey

Our featured speaker at the May business meeting, again held via Zoom, was Interim SJSU President Steve Perez. Four months into the job, President Perez was enthusiastic about the university's many programs and accomplishments, noting that we were set to graduate 7500 students at spring commencement and a total of more than 10,000 in the 2021-2022 academic year, many of them the first in their families to attend college. "This is the type of school," he said, "where higher education is at its best."

Dr. Perez kept his opening remarks brief, preferring to answer questions from the audience. Agreeing that faculty research expectations are challenging given the heavy teaching load, he pointed out that the university has added funds to support released time for research, and he intends to continue that support. And while the high cost of housing in San Jose is a largely intractable problem, the university has plans to build subsidized housing for faculty, staff, and grad students on recently donated nearby land. He also hopes to get local tech companies to help finance improvements in classroom equipment and in tech infrastructure to standards befitting our position in Silicon Valley.

Asked if he will be a candidate for the permanent job, Interim President Perez replied with an enthusiastic "Yes." The talk and question session lasted about 45 minutes, and you can watch it on YouTube at https://youtu.be/Uzn7wEfrWjM.

Academic Senate and Campus News President Perez notes student financial insecurity by Chris Joachim

At the March 21 meeting of the Academic Senate, the report from Interim President Perez included a data snapshot of our many financially needy students. SJSU Cares had 297 requests for assistance during Fall 2021. Many were about food, housing, or financial insecurity. There were 42 emergency grants to students that averaged a little over \$1,000. There were over 10,000 visits to the Spartan Food Pantry, which distributed 82.5 thousand pounds of food, including over 33 thousand pounds of fresh produce.

We also learned of the passing of two long-serving non-faculty stalwarts of the University: Lawrence Fan of the Athletics Division and Brian Bates of the Tower Foundation.

After a suspension of the rules, the Senate's first business was to approve a noteworthy Sense of the Senate Resolution honoring and thanking Eva Joice for her twenty years of service to the Senate as the Senate Administrator. Many Senators, including current and prior Senate Chairs, praised her for being the guiding light and institutional memory of the Senate.

Library Dean Michael Meth noted that the library recently has had two new initiatives. The first aims to save students money by making more course textbooks available as e-books and helping instructors provide affordable learning materials. Dean Meth estimates that, in 2021, the library saved students \$420,000 by licensing our textbooks for classroom use and that, from 2012 to 2021, the library saved students \$2.5 million. The second initiative involves a tool called "Leganto" that allows the library to upload common persistent links into the Canvas course shells and thereby give students access to all needed titles with one click.

He also noted that the library building soon will be celebrating its 20th anniversary, which will be shocking news to ERFA members who are accustomed to thinking of it as "the new library."

Jane Lin, Founding Partner/Architect, Urban Field Studio, explained that the Campus Master Plan is based on the SJSU Strategic Plan, "Transformation 2030," and it focuses on the space needs for three campuses: Main Campus, South Campus, and Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. It lays out plans for physical changes in all three places. It covers land use, buildings, the public realm, mobility, and infrastructure. It also establishes the underlying logic for the university's major capital outlay program. She encouraged everyone who wants

to know more to go to the project website http://www.sjsu.edu/campusmasterplan.

At the April 18 Academic Senate meeting, Interim President Perez announced that the CSU system has named a new Interim Chancellor, Dr. Jolene Koester, formerly the President of CSU Northridge. He also reported that the recent WASC evaluation provided both commendations and recommendations and that there was nothing in the exit session by the WASC team that really surprised or shocked him.

Senate legislative business began with the passage, by a large margin, of AS 1830, Policy Recommendation, Emergency Short Term Loans for Students. There was also a first reading of a recommendation to change RTP policy "to include within the category of Academic Assignment, activities that specifically enhance inclusion, educational equity, and achievement in the surrounding and broader communities." The Chair of Professional Standards fielded a number of questions as senators prepared to move to a final reading of the policy recommendation at a future meeting.

A final business item was an election of two faculty members to serve on the Advisory Committee to the Trustees Committee for the Selection of the President. Nidhi Mahendra from Communicative Disorders and Stefan Frazier, Chair of Linguistics and Language Development, were chosen.

There was also a special committee report on the topics of (1) the Athletics Director's response to the students' vision for Athletics, (2) student athletes' academic performance, and (3) efforts being made to enhance compliance with Title IX regulations. Athletics Director Jeff Konya said he has made a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and social and racial change. He noted that SJSU hired its first- time day-to-day individual to look after those important considerations and brought speakers in to address those issues.

In other reports, senators learned that student athletes' Academic Progress Rate has been improving and that all our coaches and staff go through Title IX training. We have also increased the ability of our student athletes to report issues in real time for an immediate response. They can remain anonymous.

At the Academic Senate's end-of-term meeting on May 9, several items dealing with adding, dropping, and withdrawing from classes received final approval. Also approved was the change to RTP policy "to include within the category of Academic Assignment, activities that specifically enhance inclusion, educational equity, and achievement in the surrounding and broader communities." Finally, the Curriculum and Research Committee's recommended guidelines for General

Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) were approved.

Overall, Spring 2022 was a busy semester for the Academic Senate as well as the first semester with Senator Perez, aka Interim SJSU President Stephen Perez. He reported how much he enjoyed participating in Senate meetings, and his presence at these meetings seems to have been welcomed by Senators who spoke on the matter, including Acting Chair Karthika Sasikumar, who noted that the president had already signed all the policies approved by the Senate prior to the final meeting.

CSU-ERFSA State Council Zoom Meeting

by Joan Merdinger

By Joan Merdinger

The CSU-ERFSA State Council meeting was conducted via Zoom on April 26, 2022. Important personnel announcements included the naming of a new Executive Director to replace Harold Goldwhite, who had been in the position for six years, and the naming of a new Association Archivist. Harold's replacement, new Executive Director for CSU-ERFSA as of July 1, 2022, will be Dr. Merry Pawlowski, a retired professor of English from CSU Bakersfield. The newly named Association Archivist is Bethany Shifflett, from SJSU ERFA. Congratulations to Bethany!

Announcements and Reports were provided by the CSU-ERFSA President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Executive Director.

Of note was Executive Director Harold Goldwhite's final report in which he discussed the importance of increasing the "...visibility and attractiveness of CSU- ERFSA to prospective and current retirees." The new partnership between CSU-ERFSA and AMBIA is an accomplishment that Harold sees as a very significant development for membership recruitment.

The Chair of the Health Benefits Committee reported on the CalPERS Long Term Care LTC) lawsuit. His report stated:

The proposed settlement in the Wedding vs. CalPERS LTC class action lawsuit will not be going forward. In providing information on the proposed settlement CSU ERFSA has been very careful to note that the proposed settlement contained a provision which allowed CalPERS to opt out of the settlement 'if proceeding with the Settlement would cause the Long-Term Care Program to be underfunded.' With approximately 30% of the

settlement class opting out of the LTC program it appears that CalPERS concluded that this would cause underfunding of the program.

Only two weeks later, on May 10, 2022, the CSU-ERFSA Executive Board unanimously approved a resolution calling for an investigation of the CalPERS Long Term Care program, and relief from excessive increases in premium rates. Please see the CalPERS website for additional updates about either a possible amended settlement (if such an amended settlement can be reached), or a jury trial: https://www.calpersltcclassaction.com/ CalPERS suggests that LTC subscribers visit this webpage every 3 to 4 weeks to check on any updates.

CalPERS accounts will now be accessed with two-factor authentication, to increase the security of member data. The current Pharmacy Benefit Manager, Optum Rx, will have its contract extended for two years with the CSU.

Faculty Trustee Dr. Romey Sabalius (from the Department of World Languages & Literatures at SJSU) provided a very thorough report on the work of the Board of Trustees for this year. Significant personnel actions have occurred this year including the resignation of Chancellor Castro, the naming of Interim Chancellor Relyea until April 30, 2022, and the appointment of Interim Chancellor Koester from May 1, 2022 until a new Chancellor is named. Investigations regarding Title IX violations will be conducted at CSU Fresno, and all 23 campuses will be reviewed for Title IX practices. Executive compensation following retirement will end with all new appointments, and this practice will be reviewed and a new policy for this practice will be recommended to the Board of Trustees. The policy on retreat rights and letters of recommendation for executive appointments will also be under review.

The CSU-ERFSA Membership Committee reported a continual but slower decline in CSU-ERFSA members over the last year of 2.7% (N=53). Over the last 5 years the decline has been 16.5% (N=374). The Committee notes that the decline in members "...appears to be due to a decline in the demise of our earliest members rather than an increase in new members." This membership trend appears across most of the campus retirement organizations. The CSU-ERFSA Executive Committee has approved a half price membership opportunity, for the first year of membership, that will begin on July 1, 2022. Details are forthcoming.

The CSU-ERFSA CFA Report included information about lobbying in Sacramento, both in-person and virtual, during April. CFA is sponsoring AB 2414 which would guarantee a full semester of parental leave for a birth or for an adoption. AB 1997, sponsored by CFA, would create inclusive task forces to

examine ways to provide campus public safety other than via the use of oncampus uniformed police forces. AB 1173, also sponsored by CFA, calls for the divestiture of fossil fuel investments from state retirement fund accounts. The CFA General Assembly meeting in April 2022 passed resolutions regarding 1) the ridding of names of any known white supremacists on campuses, and 2) the formulation of a stance to transform a "rape culture" on the 23 campuses. CFA will continue to monitor executive perks.

An item that was added to the agenda was a resolution to urge the CSU and CFA to return to the bargaining table to include part-time faculty and FERP faculty in the one-time bonus payment recognizing the additional efforts to adjust teaching to remote methodologies. The resolution was passed unanimously.

More information on many of these subjects can be found on the CSU-ERFSA website (https://www.csuerfsa.org) along with recent issues of the organization's newsletter, The Reporter. It's good to know that there is a state-wide group dedicated to looking-out for the interests of CSU retirees.

Donation Dollars are Hard at Work

by Joan Merdinger

Over the last eight years, members of ERFA have generously supported the research and creative activities of our faculty colleagues, funding a total of 18 ERFA Faculty Research & Creative Activity Awards. Each awardee receives \$2500, and the ERFA Board has now distributed a total of \$45,000. Due to your ongoing financial support, we have two more awardees for this year. If you attended our Zoom Spring meeting, which was held on May 13th, you were able to meet our awardees virtually, and both of them provided a brief presentation of their recently funded work. If you were not able to attend, we would like to introduce them to you.

Dr. Elisa Mattarelli, a tenured faculty member in the School of Management, plans to "...investigate how knowledge intensive gig workers navigate positive and negative experiences on platforms, and the implications for constructing their work identities. The research will be based on interviews with workers on Upwork." This study is part of a research collaboration with two other faculty colleagues in two additional Universities. Funding will be used to provide incentives for interviewees.

Dr. Susan Ross, a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Public Health & Recreation, proposes the development and

validation of a self-report instrument, The Personal Transformation Scale (PTS), in collaboration with a faculty colleague at another University. Dr. Ross plans to advance this area of inquiry beyond existing research, that has been mainly qualitative, with the development of a new quantitative measurement. Funding will help her to reach a sample size that will assist with instrument validation.

Our awardees informed us at the ERFA Spring meeting that they are very grateful to receive ERFA's support to fund the continuation of their research.

The ERFA Faculty Research & Creative Activity Awards program is only able to provide funding to our worthy faculty colleagues if ERFA members continue to support this important initiative. If you are able, please help ERFA keep the momentum going for the ERFA Research & Creative Activity Award by sending a check made out to "Tower Foundation" and on the Memo line include "ERFA Faculty Award." Please send your check to our ERFA Tower Foundation Liaison, Mary Calegari, 1776 Lexington St., Santa Clara, CA 95050. The Tower Foundation is a 501(C)3 organization, and your donation is tax deductable.

-----In Memoriam

Donald A. Aitken (1936-2022) Environmental Studies
James Asher (1929-2022) Psychology
George C. Coakley (1928-2022) Journalism and Mass Communications
Paul Kauppila (1960-2022) Library

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### SJSU ERFA Executive Board

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Visit the SJSU ERFA Website at <a href="https://www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty">www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty</a>

Views and opinions expressed in this SJSU ERFA Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editors or of San Jose State University.

### **Newly Elected Officers**

At the May 13 Business Meeting, held via Zoom, the following slate of nominees was unanimously approved:

- Vice President/ President Elect to serve as VP in 2022-2023 and President in 2023-2024, Elaine Collins
- Treasurer to serve 2022-2024, Bill Campsey
- Member-at-Large for 2022-2024, Elba Maldonado-Colon; and
- · Academic Senate Representative for 2022-2023, Chris Joachim
- Vice President Mary Jo Gorney Moreno becomes President for 2022-2023