

(to be approved at the September 29, 2010 meeting)

MURA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2010

Attendees: Jo Behymer, Barton Boyle, Nan Erickson, Tom Freeman, Kee Groshong, Al Hahn, Veralee Hardin, Ernest Hilderbrand, Ed Hunvald, Ken Hutchinson, Mary Ellen Kanak, Darlene Miles, Jack Miles, John Parker, Ken Schneeberger, Bob Stewart, Gary Smith, G.B. Thompson, Gary Zwonitzer

Guest: Lucille Salerno

Guest Presenter: Liz Tummons – International Teaching Assistant Program

Special Meeting: A special meeting of MURA members convened at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the future of the OSHER Lifelong Learning Program. Gary Smith, a long time member of the OSHER Board, outlined some of the critical issues facing the Program, the most immediate being that Lucille Salerno, Director of the Program, will retire July 2011. Smith reported that a search to replace Salerno had been unsuccessful. Smith stated that the Program needs to get on solid ground and support from MURA would greatly enhance its viability.

Lucille Salerno spoke about the Program as a rich University resource with a focus geared to the MURA population and their desire to continue to learn. However, the financial support for the Program is suffering due to general economic woes. The most recent attempts to cut costs has involved a move to a new location at the Stephens Lake Activity Center in a cooperative arrangement with the City of Columbia Parks and Recreations Department. OSHER's state-of-the-art technology equipment is being installed at this new location.

The Director's position is currently listed as a 75% position plus benefits with a salary of \$35,000. The benefits are estimated to be approximately \$8,000. Salerno suggested that hiring a Director who did not need benefits would be desirable. She stated that additional qualifications for a director should include knowledge of courses, on-going freshness in curriculum, awareness of resources for teaching faculty and an understanding of the student population. (There is one individual who is currently associated with the Program who would be highly qualified for the Director position, but he cannot be considered due to Human Resources compliance issues.)

Salerno made a strong appeal to the Board for MURA support for OSHER: (1) as an advocate with University administrators, (2) by accepting role of oversight for the Program and/or (3) creating a committee of MURA members to work on current issues facing OSHER.

Questions and discussion: John Parker stated that some universities operate their OSHER programs out of the Development/Alumni offices and asked about MU's Development Office. Salerno said that she had contacted them but was told that, at present, they did not have any areas where resources could be redirected to OSHER.

Tom Freeman asked if Provost Brian Foster and/or Vice President Steve Graham have been approached.

Barton Boyle felt that priority should be placed on drawing in more students by enhancing the curriculum, which would result in a positive outcome for OSHER.

John Parker suggested approaching Extension Office for the purpose of negotiating their Conference Office fee. Lucille indicated that the Conference Office fee is \$13 per enrollment. Currently the Columbia Parks and Rec Department has asked \$7.50 per registration.

Jo Behymer proposed the possibility of having co-Directors, one who has expertise in area of organizational skills, the other with expertise in University courses and faculty to teach the courses. Jack Miles suggested a second contact with Human Resources to look into reconsidering the individual who is willing to serve as director, possibly as an interim director.

Gary Smith summarized his appeal as follows: (1) that an effort should be made to get as many MURA members involved in the OSHER program as possible, (2) that MURA encourage more members to teach courses, (3) that MURA keep OSHER in the forefront through MURA Newsletter, advertising, on agendas at meetings, etc.; and (4) that MURA seriously consider appointing a committee from its membership to focus on problems and issues facing OSHER. Smith also suggested that OSHER be one of the topics discussed at the fall meeting with the Chancellor.

MURA Board Meeting: President Jack Miles called the MURA Board meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Miles distributed the meeting agenda, MURA Board and Committee Directory for 2010-11 and the list of MURA Representatives on the Chancellor's Standing Committees for 2010-11.

With agreement from the Board, President Miles continued the discussion regarding OSHER. Jo Behymer suggested that MURA create an Ad Hoc committee, which would not require a change to the MURA constitution, to advocate for OSHER. As a timeline, Behymer suggested a decision be made by the first of next year (January 2011). The purpose of the ad Hoc committee would be to assist, support, advise, and otherwise advocate for the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute as it goes through the difficult period it is now experiencing.

Behymer made a motion that the President appoint an ad hoc committee to recommend a plan of action to the MURA Board at the September meeting; (1) to serve as an advocate for the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute, (2) assist with the identification of courses and faculty; and, (3) assist with the recruitment of staff for the Assistant Director position which is now vacant. Veralee Hardin seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Guest speaker: - Liz Tummons, Coordinator of the International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP), which is a part of the MU graduate school, distributed a handout on ITAP and gave a presentation on ITAP. This program works to develop language skills of non-native graduate students who hope to take on teaching assistant or graduate instructor positions. It is for graduate students who received their elementary and secondary education in a country where English is not the primary language and who are found to not be proficient in Oral English ability. Before students are allowed to teach at MU, they must be proficient in oral English. Tummons asked for volunteers to serve as conversational partners to work with students to improve their language and teaching skills, and aid in understanding cultural and social nuances. The goal of these conversations is to give international students the opportunity to practice explaining and answering questions about complex topics. Volunteers can choose the academic

discipline, nationality of student, location and time to meet, and are asked to report back to Tummons that the meeting occurred.

Ernie Hilderbrand made a motion to ask Ms. Tummons to prepare a brief article about ITAP in a pdf format that can be sent out by email to MURA members and that she prepare an article about the program for inclusion in the October 2010 Newsletter. Jo Behymer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes and Committees: President Miles asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the April 13, 2010, Board Meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding extending the terms of committee members to two years. However, the general consensus was to maintain the status quo. Barton Boyle made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darlene Miles seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

Barton Boyle made a motion to accept the recommended list of MURA Board and Committee members as presented by the President. Tom Freeman seconded and the motion carried.

Gary Zwonitzer made a motion to approve the recommended list of MURA representatives on the Chancellor's Standing Committees for 2010-11 as presented by the President. Al Hahn seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Zwonitzer gave a brief summary of the financial report that was printed in the July Newsletter. Zwonitzer pointed out that MURA has a positive cash flow and the investment account is up by approximately \$5,000 over this time last year. A motion was made by Al Hahn to accept the Treasurer's Report. Nan Erickson seconded and the motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership – Ernie Hilderbrand handed out the membership report compiled as of July 16, 2010, showing a total of 1,422 members of which 698 are Lifetime members. Hilderbrand reported that 1,162 copies of the last newsletter were mailed. President Miles asked Hilderbrand to make a list of retirees who are not members for the purpose of contacting them to solicit membership. Miles welcomed Ken Hutchinson as co-chair of the Membership Committee. Hutchinson stated that he is looking forward to working with MURA.

Ernie Hilderbrand announced that the 2010-11 year would be his last year as co-chair of the Membership Committee. Hilderbrand indicated that it would be beneficial to have his successor identified to allow time for that person to work with him to learn his job. Hilderbrand suggested recruiting Jane Alexander as a possible replacement.

Program – Nan Erickson reported that the Program Committee discussed adding new events. Some suggestions were short trips or theatre events, a night of food and entertainment in March or April, and possible participation in "Chautauqua – the Great Theologians" to be held at the Lake of the Ozarks on October 18, 19, and 20, 2010.

By acclamation, the Board approved the Program Committee continue to look at new events we might add to our program.

The committee set the following dates for 2010 and 2011:

Fall Social	October 14, 2010 at Reynolds Alumni Center
Information Meeting	November 6, 2010 (site to be determined)
Holiday Luncheon	December 11, 2010 at Reynolds Alumni Center
Annual Business Meeting	March 5, 2011 at Reynolds Alumni Center Ball Room

Communications – Tom Freeman announced that he will leave his position as chair of the Communications committee after the October 2010 Newsletter. He suggested recruiting Valerie Goodin as a possible replacement.

Retirement, Health and Other Benefits – Al Hahn reported that this committee met on May 13, 2010, and the minutes are posted on the MURA web site. Barton Boyle replaces John Bauman on this committee.

The University Retirement Plan will be considered at the Board of Curators meeting on September 23-24, 2010. Hahn indicated that the focus of discussion would be on moving the plan away from a defined benefit plan to an defined contribution plan. Any change in the plan will impact active employees only.

Bob Stewart reported that in discussions on the retirement plan, factors being considered are: the employee survey, possible outsourcing of legal services; and, how the new National Health Care Program will affect the MU plan.

University Liaison – Jo Behymer announced that representatives of the retirees associations from all four campuses would meet with President Forsee on October 13, 2010. Each campus has prepared a list of contributions retirees make to the University, and these lists will be compiled and presented to the President.

The MURA Executive Committee will meet with Chancellor Brady Deaton on October 12, 2010, and April 13, 2011 to discuss current issues and concerns. The OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute will be on the agenda.

Gary Smith reported that he was asked by the chancellor's staff to get the MURA Board's reaction to the possibility of moving the Chancellor's Retirees Luncheon to the Alumni Center Ballroom and scheduling it between May 16 and Memorial Day. Several reasons were given for this proposal including costs for staging the event and the fact only 239 retirees attended the event last spring, which can be handled comfortably in the Alumni Center Ballroom. Attendees would continue to be charged \$10. The pros and cons of this proposal were discussed in length.

Hildebrand moved that based on the information received, the MURA Board support the proposal to move the Chancellor's Retirees Luncheon to the Reynolds Alumni Center and that it be held during the period between May 16 and Memorial Day, provided free parking is made available to attendees in the nearby parking garages. Nan Erickson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Awards – Darlene Miles reported that the committee would like to encourage the MURA membership to submit more nominations for the Chancellor’s staff and faculty retiree of the year awards. She asked board members to promote these awards among the membership. Darlene requested that she be informed of the date for the Chancellor’s Retirees Luncheon as soon as it is determined so she can print the nomination forms and distribute them.

Governmental Affairs – Ken Schneeberger encouraged members to consider joining the Flagship Council or other organizations that support MU, which might have some positive influence with the state legislature.

Nominating – Barton Boyle reported that election of next year’s MURA officers would be conducted at the annual business meeting scheduled for March 5, 2011.

Ex-Officio, Ad-Hoc and Other Committees:

Historian – G.B. Thompson reported that minutes are archived electronically

University Retiree Benefits – Bob Stewart (report given in conjunction with Retirement, Health and Other Benefits report)

Faculty Council – Ed Hunvald reported that Leona Rubin has been re-elected as Chair of the Faculty Council.

Staff Council – Jack Miles reported that Shirley Johnson would replace Marlene Duffield whose term expired in July. Libby Miederhoff will also serve as a MURA representative to the Staff Council.

Breakfast Programs –John Parker has asked G.B. Thompson to assist with reservations. The fall schedule is:

September 7, 2010, Tony Alioto, Professor and Schiffman Chair in Ethics, Religious Studies, and Philosophy, Columbia College, *Buddhist principles for living and a very short course in meditation*.

October 5, 2010, Michael Budds, MU Professor of Music, *My life as grand opera or a Broadway Musical*.

November 5, 2010, Larry Brown, MU Professor of Cultural Geography, *Religious Diversity in Missouri*.

Old Business: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) - President Miles asked if there was any follow-up on the RSVP presentation at the January 26, 2010, Board Meeting. Ernie Hilderbrand made a motion that MURA ask Casey Goodman, Director of RSVP to prepare a brief article about the organization and submit it to Ernie in a pdf file to send out by email to MURA members and that she be invited to prepare an article for the October MURA Newsletter. Barton Boyle seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Announcements: Gary Zwonitzer reminded the Board that the Rex Dillow Columbia Invitational Seniors Golf Tournament, sponsored by MURA, will be held on July 24-25, 2010.

Upcoming events are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
9/7/10	Breakfast Program	8:00 a.m.	Jack's Gourmet Restaurant
9/22/10	Program Committee	3:00 p.m.	HyVee on West Broadway
9/29/10	MURA Board Meeting	2:00 p.m.	S-110 Memorial Union
10/5/10	Breakfast Program	8:00 a.m.	Jack's Gourmet Restaurant
10/14/10	Fall Social	4:00 p.m.	Reynolds Alumni Center
11/2/10	Breakfast Program	8:00 a.m.	Jack's Gourmet Restaurant
11/6/10	Fall Information Meeting	9:30 a.m.	TBA
9/23-24/10	Board of Curators Meeting		Springfield, MO
12/9-10/10	Board of Curators Meeting		St. Louis Campus

President Miles adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Mary Ellen Kanak