

Minutes to be approved at Fall 2010 MURA Meeting

MURA SPRING INFORMATIONAL AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Barton Boyle at the Reynolds Alumni Center. Boyle welcomed the attendees and invited them to stop by the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) table at the back of the room to view literature provided. Boyle encouraged everyone to consider participating in the EAP survey currently being conducted to better determine needs of retirees.

President Boyle introduced Chancellor Brady Deaton. Chancellor Deaton listed MU status in the field of science, budget, enrollment, cotton ball incident and a possible invitation to join the Big X as topics he would cover. Deaton stated that MU continues to command the lead in many areas of science by virtue of the excellence of MU's researchers who do cutting edge research. MU is taking the lead in the Missouri Regional Life Science Summit that will be held in Kansas City on March 8-9, 2010. The focus of the summit will be on the human/animal scientific interface and promoting such interaction through university/industry collaborations.

Regarding the budget, the February 2010 budget is 14.6% below that of February 2009. The State of Missouri continues to rank below average on across the board tax assessments resulting in lower revenue collections. Deaton stated the need to equalize the Access Missouri Scholarship funds toward more scholarships for students at public institutions.

MU enrollment is up significantly with applicants having increasingly higher ACT scores. More of our students are earning Fullbright Scholarships. MU is focused on in-dept planning for the future, being cognizant of what is transpiring at the Legislator level, specifically in the areas of "Mizzou Advantages"- Food for the Future, One Medicine, Sustainable Energy, New Media in Journalism, and Understanding Ourselves in the Age of New Technologies.

Chancellor Deaton mentioned two additional topics: (1) the recent cotton ball incident on the MU campus and stressed the importance and efforts by MU to honor diversity on campus. (2) The MU faculty is in favor of the University of Missouri joining the Big X, if and when that invitation would be forthcoming. A Big X affiliation would mean an overall increase in institutional ranking and funding, and it would result in a significant boost in status for the University.

President Boyle introduced Mike Paden, Associate Vice President of Benefits. For 2009, Paden reported the following for the UM Retirement, Disability, Death Benefit Plan: Market Assets \$2.37 billion, Actuarial Assets \$2.84 billion, Ongoing Actuarial Value \$2.82 billion and Actuarial Funded Status 100.78%. At present the fund is solid. Contributions will increase in the future due to the mandatory active employee contributions scheduled to be 12% by 2015.

Paden stated that premiums for Health Care will increase with a possible upward trend of about 9%. However, retirees will not see as big an increase as active employees. Pension plans, particularly Defined Benefit Plans, are in the spotlight for future changes. Paden sited examples of State Senate Bills 712, 722 and 715 and House Bills 1480 and 1641.

The recent Pay and Benefits Preference Study was a survey done only as information gathering in order to aid in designing benefits for the future that will better serve employees.

A question was asked from the floor about the Essence Health Plan mailing. Paden explained that this is simply another Medicare advantage option product and encouraged attendees to carefully investigate coverage, costs, etc. before making changes.

At this point, President Boyle made a presentation to Mike Paden of lifetime memberships in MURA for him and his wife, Carrie, in appreciation for the support Paden has given MURA members over the past years.

President Boyle introduced Gary Smith who made a presentation entitled "Then and Now." Smith's narration along with visuals takes one down memory lane on the MU Columbia Campus, featuring old structures that were replaced with new buildings and areas that were revitalized to bring the campus to one of beauty and serviceability. Smith pointed out that in the 1980's when the campus obtained the services of a Master Planner, three main goals were proposed: (1) do away with surface parking, (2) expand green spaces, and (3) avoid mistakes in building buildings that didn't fit in terms of architectural design. Smith's presentation will be given to Alumni groups across the county.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Zwonitzer reported that MURA is in good shape financially. For the period of July 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010, to the initial balance of \$6044.00, \$8, 377.00 was added bringing the total to \$14, 421.00. \$6,658 was spent leaving a balance of \$7,763 as of February 28, 2010. Other assets include investments of \$55,887.00.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Ernie Hildebrand told the group that the status of an individual's dues and e-mail address is now being printed on the newsletter in the upper right of the address panel. This makes it convenient as a reminder of when to pay dues.

Nominating Committee – Kee Groshong, Chair of the Nominating Committee, read the following nominations: President elect - Nan Erickson and Board members – John Parker, Roger Mitchell and Ken Hutchinson.

Tom Freeman moved that the slate of nominees be accepted by acclamation. Gary Smith seconded the motion.

President Boyle adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:
Mary Ellen Kanak