



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2020

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order via Zoom at 2:03 p.m. Participants introduced themselves.

Those in attendance were president Ruth Tofle; president-elect Linda Cook; past presidents Tom Henderson and Betsy Garrett; secretary Mary Licklider; treasurer Donna Johanning; at-large members Mark Banks, Bill Fisch, Mary Jo Herde, Art Jago, Nancy Johnson and Frank Schmidt; committee chairs Kay Barbee, Clyde and Cecile Bentley, Barbara Harris, Mary Anne McCollum Dick Otto, Tim Parshall and Gary Smith (joined at 2:55 p.m.); co-ombud Marty Townsend; University liaison Cecil Moore; ex officio members Ina Linville, Linda Lorenz, Judy Maseles, Libby Miederhoff, Barbara Schneider, and Maggie Walter.

Minutes

Dick Otto moved approval of the minutes of the April 22, 2020, meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Fisch and unanimously approved.

President's Report

The president's report included the following items:

1. Review of the strategies MURA has been using for meeting its goals to communicate, advocate, educate/socialize, and contribute toward representing, promoting and protecting the interests of MU retirees in the time of Covid-19
2. Recognition of MURA leadership and plans to post committee memberships in the next newsletter. Tom Henderson moved and Frank Schmidt seconded approval of the leadership directory. The motion passed.

Treasurer's and Finance Committee Reports

The treasurer's statement of cash flows reported a year-end cash balance of \$6274.19 and an investment account balance of \$91,303.40. Bill Fisch moved approval of the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dick Otto and approved. Finance Committee Chair Donna Johanning presented an analysis comparing the actual 2019-20 budget with the proposed 2020-21 budget.

Standing Committees

Awards Committee. President Tofle and chair Mary Jo Herde requested that members think about nominating individuals, particularly those active in other community organizations, for the Chancellor's staff and faculty recognition awards.

Membership Committee. Chair Dick Otto reported that the committee conducted an outreach project, "MURA Friendly Voices," to make phone contact with MURA members who do not have email addresses on file. Thirteen volunteers attempted 147 contacts and reached approximately 100 MURA members or family members. There are currently a total of 904 members.

Ombuds. Marty Townsend reported that requests to the ombuds have been primarily questions regarding access to MU services. MU staff responses have been detailed and complete, and reactions have been brief and positive.

Government Affairs Committee. Chair Mary Anne McCollum reported three items: 1) The deadline to request an absentee or mail-in ballot is July 22. 2) Governor Parson has called a special session beginning July 27 on violent crime. 3) Work is underway in partnership with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for the October forum for candidates for positions in our local delegation.

Education and Program Committees. Education Committee co-chair Cecile Bentley summarized plans for monthly presentations to be offered via Zoom through October. Events in November and later can be changed to virtual as need be. Planning will begin soon for February through June 2021 programs.

President-elect Linda Cook noted that the MURA-Osher Institute partnership to offer online programs began with Dr. Andrew Clarke, UM Presidential Fellow, on July 14. Upcoming programs will include MURA monthly breakfast presentations and selected UM webinars. A new feature announced in MURA emails and the website is “Barbara Schneider’s Picks” of upcoming online university-related programs in the community. The fall information meeting will be the joint 4-campus webinar to be scheduled for a date after insurance information is available.

Barbara Schneider reported on the partnership with the Osher Institute and noted that reduced Osher staffing limits the timing of online presentations.

Scholarship Committee. Committee chair Tim Parshall reported a balance in the endowment account of \$94,311.01, and in the distribution account of \$5277.51. Chair Parshall has a call in to the Development Office to reconcile these numbers with MU figures. He is in discussion with the scholarship office about how best to distribute the income from the endowment account. For this year, two full-year \$1000 scholarships and one \$500 half-year scholarship were awarded. A new push on the \$30 for 30 campaign was suggested, and this will be included in the August newsletter.

Special Committees and Liaisons

Audit Committee. Chair Libby Meiderhoff reported on the annual review of MURA financial records for the fiscal year ending June 30 and commented that this year’s was the easiest audit in some time. The committee traced deposits and disbursements from source documents to transaction register entries to bank statements and financial reports. The committee members believe the financial statements accurately reflect the financial position of the MU Retirees Association, appreciate the cooperation of the treasurer, and commend her for the improvements implemented in FY 2020. Mary Jo Herde moved and Bill Fisch seconded a motion to approve the audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

MU Engagement Council Representative. Ina Linville provided the link to the announcement of the new Engagement Council portal: <https://mailer.missouri.edu/42N5-B0S3-3517WA85C0/cr.aspx>.

Newsletter Editor-in-Chief. Maggie Walter expressed gratitude to Ginny Booker for her work in laying out the newsletter and reported on a meeting with the president and immediate past-president to plan the August newsletter. Members are invited to offer suggested newsletter content via email.

United Way Representative. Linda Lorenz reported that, due to Covid-19, the fall campaign will first appeal to those who gave last year and then to others who didn’t donate last year. There will be no kickoff event, just virtual information instead. United Way has been flexible in allowing organizations to rewrite proposals to reflect current needs and in extending the deadline for applications.

Unfinished Business

University Liaison–Administration. President Tofle reported on the 4-campus meeting for all retirees in May and the subsequent meeting of the leaders of the campus retiree associations. If UM System personnel are willing, a System-wide webinar should be followed again by the leadership meeting in the fall. Following discussion, Cecile Moore agreed to set up those meetings. The System-wide webinar should encourage membership in the campus retiree organizations and highlight their roles. Linda Cook will update the names of the incoming retiree presidents on the other UM campuses.

President Tofle noted that Central Bank remains eager to provide a \$1,500 social sponsorship, but the question of when a face-to-face social could be scheduled is undetermined at this time.

New Business

Venue Reservations and Sponsorship. President Tofle reported that neither the Country Club of Missouri nor the State Historical Society will charge for cancellations due to Covid-19. No year has passed without a MURA holiday party, but planning for this year is still uncertain. Barbara Schneider noted that a social could happen via Zoom, including break-out groups, and President Tofle added that Osher expertise is available to help MURA.

Status of the Retirement, Health and Other Benefits Committee. Representative Kay Barbee reported on the campus recommendation to disband this committee, although the decision has not yet been made. For now, Ms. Barbee will keep the Board posted as to the committee's status.

Bylaws Special Committee. Art Jago thanked committee members Nancy Johnson, Jo Turner, and Mary Lickliger and led a discussion of the committee's three recommendations.

Art Jago moved approval of recommendation Add Section 11. Alternative Balloting to the MURA Bylaws as follows:

Where this Constitution and Bylaws of the Association calls for a time and place of an in-person election or vote of the membership, the Board, at its sole discretion, may choose to use technologies and methods other than in-person meetings to conduct business or hold elections, including but not limited to synchronous and asynchronous communications by electronic means and mail-in ballots. When using a mechanism other than in-person meetings, the number of ballots received will determine if the requirement of a quorum, as prescribed by the Constitution and/or Bylaws, has been met.

The motion was seconded. During discussion, Tim Parshall moved and Mary Lickliger seconded amending the motion as follows:

Where this Constitution and Bylaws of the Association calls for a time and place of an in-person election or vote of the membership, the Board, at its sole discretion, may choose to use technologies and methods other than **or in conjunction with** in-person meetings to conduct business or hold elections, including but not limited to synchronous and asynchronous communications by electronic means and mail-in ballots. When using a mechanism other than **fully** in-person meetings, the number of ballots received will determine if the requirement of a quorum, as prescribed by the Constitution and/or Bylaws, has been met.

The amendment passed 15–0. The amended motion passed 12–0.

Art Jago moved approval of the committee's recommendation to revise Section 8. Standing Committees, as follows:

The standing committees shall be Finance; Membership; Program; Communications; Ombudsman; Retirement, Health, and Other Benefits; University Liaison; Awards; Governmental Affairs;

Nominating; Education; Past Presidents; and MURA Scholarship. At the discretion of the President and approval of the Board a standing committee may have co-chairs rather than a chair. In such an event, each standing committee shall have one vote in matters coming before the Board of Directors. In this event, it will be the responsibility of the committee to determine how that vote is cast. The chair or co-chairs of each committee shall report regularly to the President and annually, in writing to the Board, prior to the annual meeting.

Dick Otto seconded the motion, and it was approved 15–0. Dr. Jago reminded the Board that these changes must be approved by the membership at a meeting and moved that the changes be taken to a vote of the general membership at the next physical or electronic meeting of MURA. The motion was seconded by Mary Licklider. Following discussion, the motion passed 13–0.

Art Jago introduced the committee’s recommendation to create a MURA policies and procedures manual containing standard operating procedures that have been used and found to be appropriate. Dr. Jago mentioned that the past presidents might be a logical group for compiling such a manual. President Tofle noted that the past presidents were scheduled to meet on July 16 and planned to discuss this recommendation.

Announcements

President Tofle recognized immediate past-president Betsy Garrett and virtually presented her with a black and gold gift. Past president Garrett thanked Art Jago and his committee for their work, recognized President Tofle for her work as president-elect and program chair, and virtually presented her with a “president of MURA” name badge.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Mary Licklider moved adjournment at 4:00 p.m., and the motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider
Secretary