



**MURA 2019 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**March 16, 2019**

The annual business meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Jo Turner.

**Program**

Dr. Latha Ramchand, MU Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, provided retirees with an update on the University. Topics included the School of Medicine Match Day, Nobel prize winner George Smith's gift to MU, increases in research dollars and admission numbers, financial assistance to students, and outreach to the citizens of Missouri.

**Retiree Benefits Update**

Carol Wilson, Director, Benefits Program provided an update on retiree benefits. No changes in benefits or carriers are planned for 2019-20. Factors influencing insurance rates, the renewal process for the Medicare Advantage plan, and the bid and selection process for life and disability insurance were explained. Members were encouraged to attend the fall benefits information meeting and to monitor the MURA newsletter for additional updates.

**Retiree Pension Fund Update**

Tom Richards, UM Treasurer and Chief Investment Officer, reported no significant developments in the status of the pension plan. The pension plan is currently 83% funded, with assets of \$3,682,638,000, liabilities of \$4,413,831,000, and \$731,193,000 in unfunded obligations. Mr. Richards reported that no reduction in MU retirees' benefits is anticipated.

**Minutes**

President Turner called for additions or correction to the minutes from the March 2018 annual business meeting. Susan Hazelwood moved approval of the minutes as submitted; Joseph Headley seconded; and the motion passed. President Turner thanked Secretary Palmer for her two terms of service.

**Treasurer's Report**

President Turner provided the treasurer's report for the 7+ months ended February 21, 2019. Overall, the Association is in satisfactory financial condition. Margie Sable moved approval of the treasurer's report; Susan Hazelwood seconded; and the motion passed.

**Nominating Committee Report and Election**

Nominating Committee chair Margie Sable presented the slate of candidates to become MURA officers and Board members: President, Ruth Tofle; secretary, Mary Licklider; member-at-large faculty, Art Jago; member-at-large staff, Mary Jo Herde.

President Turner asked for nominations from the floor, and none were received. Tom Henderson moved that the slate of officers and Board members be accepted by acclamation. Doris Littrell seconded; the motion carried; and the candidates were congratulated.

**MURA Membership Survey**

Art Jago and committee members Kay Barbee, Betsy Garrett, Ina Linville and Dick Otto reported that the survey of approximately 1,000 MURA members in the fall of 2018 garnered a response rate of 34%.

Results of the survey were summarized. In general, MURA members approve of the organization's roles and activities, although a need to better promote the organization was identified.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Awards Committee.** Larry Windmoeller announced that Sandra Taylor will be honored as retired staff member and Jill Raitt as retired faculty member at the Chancellor's annual luncheon on May 21, 2019. Each award includes a plaque and a stipend of \$1,000.

**Communications Committee.** Barb Harris reported on creation and distribution of the MURA newsletter and growing use of social media.

**Education Committee.** Dick and Anne Hessler reported that MURA breakfasts have been well-attended and that the Country Club of Missouri has been confirmed to host all upcoming breakfast meetings.

**Governmental Affairs Committee.** Mary Anne McCollum reported on the legislative candidate forum and on the opening of Missouri's 100th legislative session with new leadership in both the House and Senate. The University of Missouri Caucus, announced on February 21, is comprised of State senators and representatives who are alumni of one of the four UM campuses and/or are friends of the University.

**Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Committee.** Marty Townsend reported for co-chairs Gary Smith and Kee Groshong that eight scholarships have been awarded to date, and applications for 2019 are being screened. Recipients will be honored at the annual Chancellor's luncheon on May 21, 2019.

Thirty individuals volunteered 94.75 hours at the January Mizzou Store event for which the scholarship fund received \$1,421. Fall Mizzou Store volunteer efforts netted \$1,848. In September 2018, the MURA Board approved \$10,000 to match individual donations received from July 1, 2018 forward. Eligible donations totaling over \$11,000 were received, bringing the scholarship fund to \$71,151. The Scholarship Committee is working to host a benefit performance by Deke Dickerson this fall.

**Membership Committee.** Dick Otto reported that MURA membership continues to grow. Current membership as of March 16, 2019 is 922, with 865 life members and 57 annual members. Total membership growth from 2017 to 2019 was 12.2%.

**Ombuds.** Ombuds Committee co-chairs Marty Townsend and Bill Fisch are nearing completion of an updated "MU Retiree Perks" list, so that retirees and those contemplating retirement can access a directory of commonly requested information.

**Past Presidents Committee.** President Turner reported for chair Ken Hutchinson that the Past Presidents Committee meets regularly to act as advisors and a sounding board for current MURA officers. In January, they were tasked by MURA President Jo Turner to investigate the matter of cost-of-living-adjustments for University of Missouri retirees. A report and recommendations will be presented to the MURA Board for consideration and action at the April 2019 Board Meeting.

**Program Committee.** Betsy Garrett reported that a calendar of MURA events for 2019-2020 has been created and shared via newsletters and other channels. Both the fall information meeting and the holiday luncheon will be held at the Country Club of Missouri (CCMO). The Spring Social/Ray Schroeder picnic is scheduled for April 17 at Twin Lakes. Costs of the breakfasts and the Spring Social will increase to \$15 per person to cover price increases by vendors and charges for use of the online portal. The fall information meeting and the annual business meeting will continue to be free for members.

**Retirement/Health/Other Benefits Advisory Committee.** Kay Barbee reported that this committee has been inactive, but efforts have been made to re-engage this group.

**University Liaison-Administration.** Linda Cook reported that MURA officers meet with Chancellor Cartwright and President Choi twice a year to discuss needs and interests of current and prospective retirees. The spring meeting with Chancellor Cartwright will be May 7, 2019, and the spring meeting of four-campus retiree association leadership teams with President Choi will be May 9, 2019.

#### **Announcements**

The MU Engagement Council is seeking volunteers to help plan and implement MU's Campus Open House on April 13. MURA's representative on the MU Engagement Council is Ina Linville, [linvilleie@missouri.edu](mailto:linvilleie@missouri.edu).

The School of Music needs more than 200 volunteers to assist with the state high school music festival. To volunteer, complete the online form at <https://goo.gl/forms/Ry5cgy1qdhODLGLs2>. For further information, contact Pauli Landhuis at [landhuisp@missouri.edu](mailto:landhuisp@missouri.edu) or (573) 529-0916.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider  
MURA Board Secretary