**

**MURA 2021 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**March 16, 2021**

The March 16 virtual breakfast and annual business meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Education Committee co-chair Clyde Bentley with 58 members present. After providing some technical details, President Ruth Tofle welcomed and provided information about plans for the next virtual breakfasts and the annual business meeting to follow the program. She introduced the morning’s speaker, Jim Sterk, the MU Director of Athletics.

**Program**

Mr. Jim Sterk reported on athletics currently in progress and use of athletic facilities during the pandemic for testing and vaccinations. He spoke to the core values for MU athletics, goals for 2021, areas of investment, the COVID-19 shutdown and its effects on scheduling and budgets, current issues facing college athletics, athletic facilities, recruitment of 4- and 5-star athletes, and the economic impact of MU on the state of Missouri. Following his presentation, Mr. Sterk took questions, many about strategies MU Athletics used to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Tofle called the business meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**Minutes**

Having received no additions or corrections, PresidentTofle noted approval of the minutes from the March 2019 annual business meeting.

**Nominating Committee Report and Election**

Nominating Committee chair Betsy Garrett presented the slate of candidates to become MURA officers and Board members: President, Ruth Tofle; secretary, Mary Licklider; member-at-large faculty, Donna Ottoo; member-at-large staff, Judy Nolke. She asked for questions or nominations from the floor, she moved approval of these candidates and gave instructions for electronic voting. The motion passed unanimously, and the new officers were congratulated and thanked.

**Bylaws Revision**

Art Jago, chair of the ad hoc committee for bylaws revisions, acknowledged the other members of the committee and presented two revisions to the MURA bylaws for consideration by the membership. He moved approval of the first proposal was to add Section 11 to permit MURA business to be conducted by mail and/or email balloting as became necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic, as follows:

Sect. 11. Alternative Balloting. 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.

No questions or suggestions were posed regarding this motion.

Art Jago moved approval of a revision of Section 8 of the bylaws to permit co-chairs for standing committees, as follows:

Sect. 8. Standing Committees. 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.

In response to a question, Art Jago clarified that the bylaws changes take effect immediately. New officers assume their roles July 1 each year.

In electronic voting, both changes to the bylaws were approved. Section 11 was approved by a vote of 57 yes, 1 no, and the revised Section 8 was approved unanimously.

**Announcements**

President Tofle noted that the committee reports that have been traditional for in-person meetings have been provided in the newsletter, noting in particular that MURA is in good fiscal health. In response to a question, she reported that the scholarship fund corpus is approximately $100,000 and that MURA anticipates being able to award more scholarships in the future.

A town hall meeting to discuss the pension and other topics is being planned. The next breakfast session will be held via Zoom on April 6 with a program on aging and the pandemic.

Members were reminded that the recording of this meeting will be available on the MURA website for 30 days.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider

MURA Board Secretary