



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2021

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order via Zoom at 2:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were president Ruth Tofle; past president Betsy Garrett; secretary Mary Licklider; treasurer Donna Johannung; at-large members Mary Jo Herde, Art Jago, Nancy Johnson, and Frank Schmidt; committee chairs Kay Barbee, Clyde Bentley, Tom Henderson, Mary Anne McCollum, Dick Otto (left at 2:36 p.m.), Tim Parshall, and Jo Turner; co-ombuds Carrie Lanham and Marty Townsend; University liaison Cecil Moore; ex officio members Libby Miederhoff and Maggie Walter (joined at 2:20 p.m.)

Minutes

Dick Otto moved approval of the minutes as provided prior to the meeting, and Betsy Garrett seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

President's Report

The president's report included the following items:

1. New membership strategies to increase lifetime memberships
2. UM email for retirees
3. UM support for MURA communications with retirees and pre-retirees
4. Avoiding such Zoom attacks on MURA programs as happened to the holiday social
5. Successful United Way campaign

Treasurer's and Finance Committee Reports

The treasurer's statement of cash flows reported a cash balance on December 31, 2020, of \$10,952.31 and an investment account balance of \$97,327.98. The Finance Committee will meet in March, and budget requests for the 2021-22 year are due March 1. Marty Townsend moved to add the shared governance award funds to the scholarship fund. Mary Jo Herde seconded. Discussion focused on whether or not this decision should be delayed until the Finance Committee's report and recommendations for 2021-22 are received. The motion failed. Dick Otto moved approval of the treasurer's report and Tim Parshall seconded. The report was approved unanimously.

Standing Committees

Nominating Committee. Chair Betsy Garrett reported that the following individuals have agreed to be nominated for office in the 2021 election: Ruth Tofle, president; Mary Licklider, secretary; Ina Metzger Linville, president-elect; Judy Nolke, member at large-staff; and Donna Otto, member at large-faculty. She noted that since Barb Schneider has decided not to move on to the presidency, Ruth Tofle agreed to serve a second term. Betsy Garrett moved approval of the slate of officers to be put forward at the spring membership meeting, and Frank Schmidt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ombuds. Marty Townsend introduced Carrie Lanham as the new staff ombuds. Marty Townsend moved approval of this appointment. Frank Schmidt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Membership Committee. Co-chairs Dick Otto and Jo Turner reported consistent membership numbers: 878 members in good standing: 20 members paid for 2021 and 858 life members. The \$87.50 offer for life

memberships netted 17 new life members. The chairs thanked Ruth Tofle for gifting annual memberships, three of whom became life members. The online application form is up, and dues can be paid with Paypal and credit card. MURA has historically relied upon the honor system as to eligibility for membership.

Total Rewards Advisory Committee (TRAC). Betsy Garrett reported on ongoing work that will improve the retirement calculator and revisions to protected time off for staff. In March-April, TRAC will see the RFP for the Medicare Advantage plan.

Government Affairs Committee. Chair Mary Anne McCollum reported on activities around the General Assembly's regular session, Capitol security, and the Governor's inauguration. UM System priorities include core funding, NextGen Precision Health, and tuition deregulation. State revenues have been higher, and CARES Act funds are freeing up other monies so that there may be money for projects.

Education and Program Committees. Education Committee co-chair Clyde Bentley reported on plans for winter and spring breakfast programs and the annual business meeting on March 16. He asked for suggestions that tap the opportunity to have a virtual speaker that might not otherwise be possible. The webinar format for the membership meeting will allow for increased security. The business meeting will include election of officers and voting on proposed bylaws changes. If we don't get a quorum for the business meeting, we will use Survey Monkey to elect officers and wait for the bylaws vote until the next in-person opportunity. A link to breakfast program recordings will be given in the MURA Update email. Programs will be archived with University Archives at no cost 28 days after the presentation.

Past Presidents. Chair Tom Henderson had no report. Ruth Tofle reported that the past presidents will be asked to study and clarify MURA membership eligibility and provide the Board.

Scholarship Committee. Committee chair Tim Parshall reported a balance of \$105,537 in the scholarship fund as of December 31, \$1,775 in donations in 2020, and outlays in 2020 for two \$1,000 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship. Tim Parshall moved that scholarships be increased to \$1,500 and that MURA continues to award three scholarships per year. Tom Henderson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Advancement will begin providing donor information for handwritten thank you notes.

Awards Committee. Chair Mary Jo Herde encouraged members to nominate individuals for Chancellor's Retiree Awards and noted that information will be in MURA Update emails and on the MURA website.

Retirement, Health, and Other Benefits. Kay Barbee sent a written report that open enrollment for 2021 went well and mentioned a kit that United Health Care provided some members as part of a pilot study.

Special Committees and Liaisons

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Liaison. Barbara Schneider sent a written report that MURA's coordination with the Osher Institute has benefited both organizations. She encouraged Board members to watch for Osher's spring course topics in a February MURA Email Update.

University Liaison – Administration. Liaison Cecil Moore reported on the UM virtual town hall on retiree health benefits. Topics for the spring 2021 town hall include pensions and retirement system topics of interest; a video recording of this will be available online. The semi-annual Chancellor meeting of MURA leadership with President Choi included discussions of outreach to and communications with UM retirees. Ashley Rhode has been designated MURA's primary contact with UM system.

MU Engagement Council Representative. Ina Linville submitted a written report on Extension and Engagement Week in October and plans for the Engagement Council's first 2021 meeting with a theme of

university engagement in a pandemic and post-pandemic world. She recommended the MU Community Connect website for initiatives through which MU is engaged with Missourians.

Newsletter. Managing editor Maggie Walter reported that the February/March newsletter is in progress, that the first year with four issues went much smoother than having a huge August issue, and that Ginny Booker has been great with the design work. Ruth Tofle suggested a 2021 theme of partnering and “working together.”

United Way Representative. Linda Lorenz provided a written report that the MU United Way campaign raised \$417,000, of which retirees donated \$130,549.

Faculty Council - Art Jago had no report. Ruth Tofle noted that the Faculty Council plans to vote January 21 on a motion to designate MURA an entity to approve requests for future retirees to have missouri.edu email accounts because of a demonstrated need to benefit of MURA.

Unfinished Business

Policy and Procedures Manual. Mary Licklider reported that the Policy and Procedures Manual has been compiled and is awaiting the last round of edits prior to placement in a password-protected area of the MURA website. She also noted that this effort has raised the question of whether the Board should develop a commonly used storage area on the web so that materials are not scattered among private computers and subject to loss if a given computer crashes.

New Business

MURA Communications Follow-Up. Ruth Tofle summarized the discussion with Dr. Choi about retirees without missouri.edu email accounts failing to receive UM communications. Jo Turner, co-chair of the Membership Committee, will follow this issue for MURA. Jo Turner reported contacts from two UM System personnel and that a timeline has been proposed. As follow-up, Ruth sent an update to the four campus retiree association presidents with the suggestion it be discussed at their spring 4-campus retiree association meeting.

A discussion followed about the timing, explanation, and help desk wait time of the Outlook migration. Ruth Tofle and Jo Turner were asked to communicate these issues to UM System leadership.

Announcements

Board members were reminded to look at the calendar of MURA events. COVID-19 is impacting MURA members with some deaths. Betsy Garrett encouraged Board members to sign up for information about vaccine eligibility.

Maggie Walter asked about the status of the initiative for staff emeritus status. There has been no progress since it was sent to the Inter-Campus Advisory Council and just as COVID-19 hit. The issue will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the four campus retiree associations.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider
Secretary