



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2021

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order via Zoom at 2:01 p.m.

Those in attendance were asked to name a plant they wished they had more of nearby. Those present were president Ruth Tofle; past president Betsy Garrett; president elect Ina Linville; secretary Mary Licklider; treasurer Donna Johanning; at-large members Mark Banks, Mary Jo Herde, Art Jago, Nancy Johnson, and Frank Schmidt; committee chairs and co-chairs Cecile and Clyde Bentley, Tom Henderson, Mary Anne McCollum, Dick Otto, and Jo Turner; co-ombuds Carrie Lanham and Marty Townsend; University liaison Cecil Moore; ex officio members Karma Metzgar, Libby Miederhoff, Barbara Schneider, and Gary Smith; and guests Judy Nolke and Donna Otto.

### 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, summarizing recent efforts and accomplishments for what she characterized as a good year:

1. Online events and their positive effect on MURA finances
2. Accomplishments and ongoing issues related to UM retiree email use, security update, and email issues impacting MURA membership and communications
3. MURA membership and recruitment
4. Successful annual meeting, election of officers, and appointments, including the need for a Facebook administrator
5. Policies and procedures manual technical requirements and annual updates
6. Sponsorship support and coordination with Alumni Relations and Advancement
7. Planning for in-person events and a member survey
8. MURA communications

### Treasurer's and Finance Committee Reports

The treasurer's statement of cash flows reported a cash balance on March 31, 2021, of \$12,873.21 and an investment account balance of \$97,682.52. Donna Johanning moved approval of the treasurer's report; Jo Turner seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee chair Donna Johanning presented an FY2022 budget and recommendations for the remainder of FY2021, including support for efforts to engage supporters and collaborators within the University and community businesses and also support for donating the \$1,000 MU Faculty Council Governance Award to the Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Fund. The Finance Committee further recommended that MURA request that its Flagship Council dues be used for Council operations rather than political action committee support and that MURA's FY 2021 cash balance be rolled forward to FY 2022 in case there are unexpected costs related to operations during the pandemic. The proposed FY 2022 budget included a full year of activities even through in-person activities remain uncertain, no sponsorship income, and an increase to \$995 in the Miscellaneous category for unanticipated pandemic-related expenses. Donna Johanning moved approval of the FY 2022 budget and Finance Committee recommendations. Marty Townsend seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **Standing Committees**

Program Committee. Program Committee chair Barbara Schneider reported on attendance of 60 to 70 household logins for the February, March and April breakfast programs, plans for a membership survey this summer that will explore interest in a return to in-person events, and involvement of Osher members in MURA events. Members were encouraged to submit questions early for the next UM System town hall on May 12, 2021. Responding to a question, it was noted that the minimum attendance for holding in-person breakfasts is 12 and charges need to be established for in-person versus virtual attendees at the breakfasts.

Education Committee. Education Committee co-chairs Clyde and Cecile Bentley reported on plans for the May, June, and fall breakfast programs and security for the Zoom sessions.

Membership Committee. Co-chair Dick Otto reported consistent membership numbers: 886 life members in good standing: 32 members paid for 2021 and 854 life members. Another 35 who paid for 2020 but have not yet paid for 2021. The last newsletter was sent via first class mail, which identified 16 members whose addresses were not good. Help was requested for locating those members.

University Liaison – Administration. Liaison Cecil Moore and Membership Committee co-chair Jo Turner reported on meetings of representatives of the four campus retiree associations with UM personnel regarding communications with retirees. Follow-up will include strategies for identifying the preferred email addresses of retirees; UM System website information, a retiree association brochure, an “opt-in” option for retiree association information, and inclusion of information about UM town halls in pre-retirement seminars; more frequent communications from the UM System regarding deceased retirees; and continuation of the discussion at the regular meeting of the four campus retiree associations in May.

Awards Committee. Chair Mary Jo Herde reported that the Awards Committee, including Art Jago, George Kennedy, Georgia Morehouse, Maria Sloan, and Susan Hazelwood, met in March and selected Chancellor’s Retiree of the Year awardees Jacqueline Kelly (staff award) and Jeff Chin (faculty award). It is not too early to suggest names for next year’s awardees, particularly in the faculty category. Mary Jo Herde moved that the 2021 and all future Chancellor’s Retiree of the Year Award recipients be presented with a one-year membership in MURA if not already a lifetime member. Tom Henderson seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Scholarship Committee. Gary Smith moved and Marty Townsend seconded approval of Tom Henderson to chair the Scholarship Committee. The motion passed unanimously. Committee chair Tom Henderson reported on selecting three scholarship recipients, transitioning to his position as chair, MURA volunteering at the book store at the beginning of the fall semester to earn a donation to the Scholarship fund, and issues to be addressed by the Scholarship Committee in the near term. He reported a balance of \$110,353.54 in the endowment fund and \$5,277.51 in the distribution account as of March 31 prior to distribution of \$4,500 for this year’s scholarships. Discussion included how to be sure relevant campus entities are aware of the availability of the scholarships, how the annual transfer to the distribution account is calculated, and an explanation of the MURA volunteer role at the book store.

Government Affairs Committee. Chair Mary Anne McCollum reported on activities in the General Assembly’s regular session, including core funding, NextGen Precision Health, and tuition deregulation. She also reported that Governor Parson made two appointments to the Board of Curators, Todd Graves and Keith Holloway, and the two St. Louis area seats remain to be filled.

Retirement, Health & Other Benefits. Betsy Garrett reported that the Total Rewards Advisory Committee met to look at four bids for a new Medicare Advantage plan, and that there will be live presentations from

bidders in May.

### **Special Committees and Liaisons**

Faculty Council Representative. Art Jago reported that the Faculty Council endorsed the MURA plan for existing retirees to retain their UM email accounts while new non-emeritus retirees will lose those accounts unless they serve a purpose benefitting the University. MURA will be able to sponsor retiree members for account retention. The retiree annual parking pass is scheduled to increase from \$24 to \$60 on July 1.

In other business, the Council voted to increase non-tenure track faculty representation on the Council, made the ACT test optional for fall 2022 admissions due to the pandemic, and adopted a major reform of the campus faculty committee structure.

United Way Representative. Linda Lorenz submitted a written report on the 2020 MU United Way campaign. The campaign raised \$450,116, 32% of which (\$147,889) came from retirees. This represents an 80% increase in retiree giving over 2019.

In discussion, Tom Henderson asked about the computation of retiree gifts to the University that has historically been presented during the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year award luncheon. Todd McCubbin and/or Meichelle Foster in Advancement will be contacted for these figures.

MU Engagement Council. Ina Linville reported on efforts to build town and gown partnerships. On June 23 the Council will be discussing bringing broadband access to Missouri communities.

Ombuds. Marty Townsend reported no contacts to the ombuds. Marty agreed to inquire as to whether or not the one-day parking pass fee is scheduled to increase with information for the MURA Update email.

**Unfinished Business - none**

**New Business - none**

### **Announcements**

The president reminded Board members of the upcoming May 4 breakfast presentation and the UM retiree town hall to be held on May 12, 10:00-11:00 a.m. She reiterated encouragement to submit questions in advance for the town hall meeting.

Gary Smith announced that Mary Ann McCollum and Senator Roy Blunt will receive the Dyer Award.

President Tofle thanked the Board for its work on behalf of MURA.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider  
Secretary