

# MURA Board Meeting Minutes

**January 26, 2011**

**Attendees:** Jo Behymer, Barton Boyle, Nan Erickson, Tom Freeman, Al Hahn, Patsy Higgins, Ernest Hilderbrand, Ed Hunvald, Ken Hutchinson, Mary Ellen Kanak, Libby Miederhoff, Darlene Miles, Jack Miles, John Parker, Bob Stewart, Gary Zwonitzer

**Guest Speakers:** Dianne Drainer; Karina Galve-Peritore and sons, Christopher and Michael; Todd McCubbin; Jayson Meyer; and, Lucille Salerno

President Jack Miles called the MURA Board meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and distributed the meeting agenda.

## **Guest Speakers**

1. President Miles introduced **Dianne Drainer, Advocacy Director, Mizzou Alumni Association**. Ms. Drainer distributed MU Fact Booklets, the Ten Points of Pride cards, and the Mizzou Legislative Network (MLN) 2011 Legislative Platform. She touched on the various points of interaction with the Governor and Legislators in Jefferson City and cited the budget as being the critical number one issue. With the large budget cuts to higher education, MU is operating at a 2001 level of funding. Tuition increases will average 5.5%, but will still leave MU with a \$46M deficit.

Ms. Drainer stressed the need for all supporters of higher education to reach out to legislators and encourage them to provide adequate funding to our University, Missouri's Flagship University. There are four open positions on the University Board of Curators. At present, the Governor has filled three of the positions.

Ernest Hilderbrand asked that an increase for retirees' pensions be included in the requests submitted to the legislators.

2. **Karina Galve-Peritore and sons, Christopher and Michael**, were introduced by President Miles. The Peritore family made a plea for the MURA Board to support their efforts to obtain a reduction in tuition costs for dependents of retirees equal to the benefit given to dependents of employees.

They distributed a list of reasons they feel warrant extending the benefit, and stated that their efforts with various departments and administrators have been met with only mild or little interest.

In discussion, the general consensus of the MURA Board showed support for a serious inquiry into the matter on behalf of the Peritore family and, possibly, for the benefit of all retiree families.

Al Hahn made a motion that MURA request that a reduction in tuition for Christopher and Michael Peritore be considered as a short-term exemption, and that a study be done for a long-term reduction in tuition for dependent children of retirees under provisions of the MU Human Resources Policy 309. This request is to be made in the form of a letter from MURA President, Jack Miles, to Betsy Rodriguez, VP for Human Resources, with copies to Chancellor Brady Deaton and the VP for Total Compensation, Kelly Stuck. Darlene Miles seconded the motion and the motion passed.

3. MURA relationship with MU Alumni Association – **Todd McCubbin, Executive Director of the MU Alumni Association**, and Jayson Meyer, Director of Alumni Relations, were asked by President Miles to update the MURA Board on the discussions and subsequent progress made toward developing a partnership between MURA and the MU Alumni Association.

Ernest Hilderbrand has announced his retirement as MURA Membership Co-Chair effective with the end of the current school year. Thus, President Miles contacted Todd McCubbin to discuss the possibility of the Alumni Association providing administrative support for MURA by maintaining membership records and otherwise assisting MURA in communicating with its membership by utilizing MUAA computer services. McCubbin indicated that the Alumni Association is interested in developing a partnership with MURA if the details can be worked out to both parties satisfaction. The Alumni Association has the experience and technology necessary to keep track of the membership status of a large number of people so they could easily absorb the MURA membership into its computer database. In addition to handling and updating MURA's mailing list, the Alumni Association could work with MURA to devise a procedure to keep track of MURA dues as well as the collection thereof, and to provide periodic reports to the MURA treasurer. McCubbin further indicated that the

Alumni Association could assist with MURA communications such as the Newsletter and announcement of MURA events and activities.

Jo Behymer made a motion that MURA go forward with a partnership with the MU Alumni Association for the purpose of assisting with various aspects of MURA's operations, e.g., dues collection, maintaining the membership database, newsletters and other communications. Barton Boyle seconded and the motion passed.

## **Mintues**

The minutes of the September 29, 2010, MURA Board Meeting were reviewed. John Parker noted that the list of speakers for the MURA Breakfasts was not accurate. With the speaker changes made, Barton Boyle presented a motion to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2010, Board Meeting, John Parker seconded and motion carried.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Gary Zwonitzer gave the Treasurer's report and distributed a summary of MURA Income and Expenses for the period July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

A motion was made by Darlene Miles to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ken Hutchinson seconded and the motion passed.

## **Discussion of Board Member Terms**

Barton Boyle stated that over the last couple of years the MURA Board has drifted away from the practice of electing one at-large faculty and one at-large staff board member each year and an effort should be made to return to this guideline.

Barton Boyle moved that the 2011-12 Nominating Committee present a slate of nominations so the terms of office for one at-large faculty and one at-large staff member expire each year. Gary Zwonitzer seconded and motion passed.

## **Report on AHROE Meeting**

Nan Erickson gave a brief report on her attendance and participation at the AHROE Meeting. She reported that the meeting was not well attended and that most attendees were from the east and west coasts and Arizona. Erickson presented a paper at the meeting. At the request of President Miles, Erickson was able to obtain a copy of the Florida State University

Association of Retired Faculty "Roles and Responsibilities Guide" for informational purposes to be shared with MURA Board members. Some new ideas Erickson picked up at the meeting included the desirability of developing a unique logo for MURA and the possibility of obtaining a space on campus designated specifically for MU Retirees to use as a gathering place.

Jo Behymer made a motion to approve the Report. Bob Stewart seconded and the motion was approved.

### **Approval of Flagship Council 2010-2011 Annual Membership dues**

Barton Boyle made a motion that payment of the annual Flagship Council membership dues of \$100 each for 2009-10 and 2010-2011 be approved. Nan Erickson seconded and the motion passed.

### **Employee Assistance Program (EPA) Postcard**

President Miles reported that the EPA postcard had been mailed to retirees and asked for comments from the Board. Jo Behymer stated that she had received a follow-up call from Dr. Richard Thoreson. Behymer told him that the card was fine but that, in her opinion, the retiree group may not be all that open to reaching out to EPA for assistance due to various other support options available.

This report was approved by consensus.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

### **Membership**

Ken Hutchinson reported that the Membership Committee will meet on January 27, 2011. On the agenda will be discussing various ways to get the message out to retirees and soon-to-be retirees to join MURA, the dues structure and incentives to join MURA, i.e., one year free membership.

### **Program**

Nan Erickson gave the Program Committee report, stating that the committee has reviewed and evaluated the MURA events held in October, November and December 2010. The

committee urged that the book exchange held during the Holiday Luncheon be promoted more extensively.

Erickson announced that the reservations for the Winter Social, scheduled for February 3, 2011, have been small in number and she encouraged Board members to attend and to invite others.

Tim Rooney, MU Budget Director, will be the featured speaker at the Annual Business Meeting on March 12, 2011, and Kelly Stuck, VP for Benefits, will give updates on staff benefits.

Jack's Gourmet will cater the Ray Schroeder Spring Picnic to be held on May 18, 2011, at Twin Lakes Rec Area. The cost will be \$9 per person. The Chancellor's Retirees Luncheon is scheduled for May 26, 2011 at the Reynolds Alumni Center.

The Committee suggests that the Fall Information Meeting, scheduled for November 5, 2011, focus on all MU benefits for retirees, including the University Health Science Center, and that MU Retirement Program representatives be available following the presentation to answer individual questions and concerns.

Erickson announced that John Parker is planning an event for Fall 2011 at the Columbia Country Club for MURA members, entitled "An Evening with Cole Porter." The first day trip is in the planning stages, that being a trip to Warm Springs Ranch. Details will be forthcoming.

Darlene Miles made a motion to accept the Program Committee Report given by Nan Erickson. Ken Hutchinson seconded and the motion passed.

## **Communications**

Tom Freeman announced that Valerie Goodin, Freeman's replacement, will be present for the next MURA Board Meeting in April.

## **Ombudsman**

Patsy Higgins stated that she had received a few emails requesting information, and that she was able to respond to the inquiries satisfactorily. Jack Miles asked Higgins to check with the Chancellor's staff to have MURA's status as a University affiliated organization

verified to the Memorial Union Reservations Office so reservations can be made for use of S-110 Memorial Union without having to pay a use fee.

### **Retirement, Health and Other Benefits**

Al Hahn reported that this committee is composed of four retirees, four faculty, four staff and one ex-officio. Kelly Stuck will speak at the next scheduled committee meeting.

### **University Liaison**

Jo Behymer reported that the University System Presidential Search Advisory Committee is being formed. Behymer is requesting that a retiree serve on the search committee. The University of Missouri Leadership Group will again be meeting sometime in the spring.

### **Awards**

Darlene Miles reported that the deadline for submitting nominations for the awards is fast approaching and that several nominations have been promised.

### **Nominating**

Barton Boyle announced that Armon Yanders will be nominated for President-elect for the 2011-12 year and Phil Shocklee will be nominated for a three-year term as an At-large Staff member, replacing John Parker. Nominations will be presented and voted on at the March 12, 2011, Business Meeting.

### **Ex-Officio, Ad-Hoc and Other Committees**

#### **Audit Report**

Libby Miederhoff indicated that the next audit committee report will be presented at the September 2011 meeting.

#### **University Retiree Benefits**

Bob Stewart reported that Coventry is the new administrator for the University Health RIM insurance program and Delta Dental the administrator for University Dental insurance program. The federal Health Care Reform Act has been reviewed and the University is in compliance with this new program. Stewart stated that the University Retiree Benefits

Committee is in support of the current plan for new employees even though it will not reduce liability for the University. Any change will result in no cost increases for retirees.

### **Faculty Council**

Ed Hunvald reported that the Faculty Council will be meeting with the Board of Curators.

### **Staff Council**

Libby Miederhoff stated that Lisa Wimmenauer will be a guest speaker at the next Staff Council meeting and she will present information about the Coventry and Delta plans.

### **Past Presidents**

Barton Boyle reported that the next meeting of this group will be held on March 24, 2011.

### **Breakfast Programs**

John Parker gave the schedule for the upcoming dates, speakers and topics. G.B. Thompson assists with taking reservations.

- **Jan. 4, 2011**, Bill Bondeson, Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor, *Sex in a Test-tube and Other Interesting Ideas*
- **Feb. 1, 2011**, Joe Hobbs, Professor and Chair of Geography, *MU's Growing Relationship with Vietnam*
- **March 1, 2011**, Wayne Anderson, *Population Explosion and Control*

### **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute**

Lucille Salerno supports efforts toward providing one free OLLI course as an incentive to promote more participation in OLLI. Renetta Gallup, Manager Pension and Deferred Compensation, would be the contact person to work with regarding implementing this benefit. E-mail notices are going out for the Friday films and efforts are being made to show films with a more modern subject matter.

### **New Business**

Ernest Hilderbrand called attention to the fact that the original founders of MURA are passing away and that it would be very appropriate to recognize this group. He suggested a

plaque be placed at the Reynolds Alumni Center listing their names. The board discussed Hilderbrand's suggestion and ways it might be implemented

Ernie Hilderbrand made a motion that a request be presented to the MU Alumni Association for permission to display a plaque in the Reynolds Alumni Center to recognize the original founders of MURA as well as a second plaque containing an on-going list of Past MURA Presidents. Al Hahn seconded and the motion passed.

### **Upcoming events**

- **2/1/11** Breakfast Program 8:00 a.m. Jack's Gourmet Restaurant
- **3/12/11** Annual Business Meeting 9:30 a.m. Reynolds Alumni Center
- **5/18/11** Ray Schroeder Picnic 10:30 a.m. Twin Lakes Rec Area
- **5/26/11** Chancellor's Retirees Luncheon 11:00 a.m. Reynolds Alumni Center
- **3/21-22/11** Board of Curators Meeting MO S&T - Rolla

President Miles adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:  
Mary Ellen Kanak