

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**September 24, 2014**

**Members present:**  Jim Koller, Shirley Patterson, Tom Henderson, Rich Anderson, John Parker, Phil Shocklee, Gary Smith, Don Sievert, Ken Hutchinson, Bob Stewart, Mary Anne McCollum, Kitty Dickerson, G.B. Thompson, Libby Miederhoff, Terry Barnes, Bob Stewart, Don Nicholson, Patsy Higgins

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Jim Koller, President.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Terry Barnes, our new University Liaison/Administration was welcomed to the Board. Guest speaker, Dr. Betsy Rodriquez, was introduced.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the MURA meeting July 23, 2014—Motion to approve by Gary Smith, seconded by John Parker. Passed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Koller reada note from Barbara Harris regarding putting information in the new retiree packet.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Betsy Rodriquez, VP Human Resources, UM System**

The Board was very pleased to welcome Dr. Rodriquez to the meeting. She discussed the following information:

* Health insurance. Healthcare landscape is shifting. The University is seeking a balance—maintain value but control costs. Employees will not lose options for insurance. University will continue to offer them, but the work on this is not yet completed. We can tell colleagues that nothing has changed as of now. In 2015 the change will begin. There will be no surprises. This is probably a 2 year process. MU wanted a better way to provide urgent care so now there are clinics at all three HyVee stores.
* Voluntary separation plan. This is not an early retirement plan. The plan is for faculty only. There is a cash incentive to separate from the University for people who are eligible to retire. This gives MU more flexibility. Dr. Rodriquez asked, “Why do people retire?” It is usually not for money. She believes that MURA can come up with some ideas of what people can do after retirement; for example, teach a class with OSHER, volunteer at a nonprofit, etc.
* Providence Point. MURA might consider having some meetings at Providence Point now that it is open for community event as well as MU events.
* United Way. Dr. Rodriquez is a supporter of UW and trying to make connections with what UW does in the community.

**President's report: Jim Koller**

* Since the kick-off for United Way, Koller has talked to Tim Rich (UW Director) about why some programs were dropped. Rich said that in some cases there were clerical issues and in others, UW decisions were made. UW has a three year cycle to evaluate programs. Please know that MURA continues to receive plaudits from the Chancellor, University and Community United Way leaders for our efforts in supporting the United Way. A few MURA representatives are scheduled to meet with Dr. Rodriquez on October 10 to explore other contributory options.
* A person has asked to talk to MURA to promote a project. A small poll of the Board decided that is not the purpose of MURA. MURA does not market products, services, or projects. Patterson moved and the Board approved that Koller appoint a group to write a policy regarding this type of request.

**Treasurer's Report**: Koller provided a brief review of the report in the absence of Earl Wilson.  See report attached to these minutes.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Awards Committee**:  **Sandra Taylor** reported

* there is an updated nominations form (see attached to these minutes)
* she encouraged everyone to nominate someone
* she asked if anyone from the community can make a nomination—no definitive answer, but the general consensus was that they can

**Communications Committee:**   **See attached report.**

**Education Committee:**  **John Parker** reported.

**Finance**: No report.

**Governmental Affairs** : **Mary Anne McCollum** reported.

* The University has financial challenges at this time.
* There will be a meeting to discuss the upcoming legislative session.

**Membership**: **Dick Otto.** Report given by Rich Anderson in Dick’s absence. See written report.

* Koller mentioned that we might do a workshop for new retirees
* We would like to increase the membership by 5%.
* All board members need to consider names for Chair of this committee if Otto is not going to continue in that position

**Nominating:**  **Ken Hutchinson.** No report.

**Ombudsman**: **Patsy Higgins**. No report

**Program:** **Tom Henderson** reported. See attached report.

* Fall Social is October 17 from 4-6 PM
* Fall Information meeting is November 15 from 9:30-noon
* December 20 is the Holiday Luncheon
* Henderson traveled to Minneapolis to a meeting with organizations like MURA
* Trend is to have some support from the University for the retiree’s organizations

**Retirement, Health, Benefits**: No report.

**University Liaison/Administration**: **Terry Barnes** reported the following:

* he provided the Board with information about his past work
* he is in the process of setting up meetings for the year
* he is acquainted with President Wolfe, Chancellor Loftin and the new Chief of Staff, Zoro Mulligan and is pleased to be working with them

Jim Koller expressed appreciation for the work that Nan Erickson did on behalf of the MURA during her term as Chair of this committee.

**PAST PRESIDENTS: Gary Smith**. No report.

**EX-OFFICIO, AD HOC, AND OTHER SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**AUDIT REPORT: Libby Miederhoff.** See report.

Libby and Jim Lay audited the MURA books. Books of MURA are in order. The cash position has greatly improved due to changes in the investment policy aa suggested by the Treasurer and approved by the board.

**Faculty Council:** **Don Sievert** reported. See written report.

**Historian:** **G. B. Thompson**. No report

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute: Don Nicholson**

* There will be a tribute to Salarno sponsored by OSHER

**Staff Council:** **Phil Shocklee.** No report.

**University Retiree Benefits**: **Bob Stewart** reported.

* Retiree annual enrollment packets will be mailed around the second week of October.
* People need time to understand the many changes and make selections.
* There are minor changes for retirees so their enrollment will progress as it usually does. A letter was sent out a month ago notifying them of no change.

**old business:** NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:** NONE

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Next meeting of the Board is Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Patterson, MURA Secretary

**MURA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**307 B Housh Conference room**

**3rd Floor Alumni Center, Wednesday, September 24, 2014, 2:00 PM**

Call to order/ Approval of Agenda/ Introductions

Approval of Minutes from Business Meeting July 23rd, 2014

Announcements

President’s Report: Jim Koller

Treasurer’s Report: Earl Wilson

Guest Speaker: Dr. Betsy Rodriquez, VP Human Resources, UM System

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Awards Sandy Taylor

Communications Barb Harris

Education John Parker

Finance Earl Wilson

Governmental Affairs Mary Ann McCollum

Membership Dick Otto

Nominating Ken Hutchinson

Ombudsman Patsy Higgins

Program Tom Henderson

Retirement, Health, Benefits Doris Littrell

UM Liaison/Administration Terry Barnes

Past Presidents Gary Smith

Board Secretary Shirley Patterson

**Ex-Officio, Ad Hoc and Other Special Committee Reports**

Audit/ Report Libby Miederhoff

Faculty Council Don Sievert

Historian G.B. Thompson

Asher Lifelong Learning Institute Don Nicholson

Staff Council Phil Shocklee

University Retiree Benefits Bob Stewart

Old Business

New Business

**Treasurer’s Report to MURA Board**

**Cash Flow Statement**

**For Period July 1, 2014 to September 24, 2014**

**Operating Receipts:**

Annual dues $ 225.00

Lifetime dues 375.00

Total operating receipts 600.00

**Operating Disbursements:**

Annual registration, Missouri Secretary of State 15.00

Internet office domain rental 59.40

Reimburse Tom Henderson for AROHE Conference 909.03

Total operating disbursements 983.43

**Excess of operating disbursements over receipts**  (383.43)

**Other disbursements**

Deposit in Vanguard Wellesley Fund (see Note A) ( 5,000.00)

**Decrease in cash for the period** ( 5,383.43)

**Cash balance, July 1, 2014**  9,745.59

**Cash balance, September 24, 2014** $ 4,362.16

**Lifetime Member Reserve Fund Balance, Aug. 31, 2014** $82,296.71

Note A: Per approval at the July 23, 2014, Board meeting, $5,000 was invested in MURA’s Vanguard Wellesley reserve fund for life-time members on July 29, 2014. An additional 74.479 shares were purchased at $62.91 per share, bringing total shares to 1,298.465.

September 20 2014

Jim Koller, President

MU Retirees Association

Subject: Audit of MURA Financial Records

The Audit Committee has completed the audit of MU Retirees Association Financial Records for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

We traced deposits to bank statements and financial reports. We traced disbursements to source documents, bank statements and financial reports. We believe the financial statements accurately reflect the financial position of the MU Retirees Association.

We noted the improved cash position of the organization due to the change in investment policy for the Life Members Reserve. We also noted the IRS Form 990-N was filed promptly.

We appreciate the assistance and cooperation of the MURA Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Libby Miederhoff, Chair

Jim Lay

Cc: Earl Wilson

**Communications Report for MURA Board Meeting**

**Barb Harris**

**September 24, 2014**

My apologies for not attending the meeting in person but I am working as one of the Annual Enrollment Guides for UM HR during September and October assisting with Town Hall, Department and 1 on 1 meetings with faculty and staff to educate everyone on the Medical Plan changes for 2015 for ***active*** benefit eligible employees. No, there are no changes for retiree medical and the open enrollment period for retirees begins November 4th.

The summer newsletter went out electronically about 10 days ahead of the mailed version so hopefully this will be an incentive for others to ‘go green’. We mailed out 714 copies and there are about 60 thus far who forego their mailed copy. Collection of articles for the fall newsletter has begun. Besides upcoming events, there will be an article on the Chancellor’s Award process and will include the nomination form which was sent to the Board prior to the meeting. Send any suggestions for articles to Barb Harris.

Website maintenance is behind schedule but it’s a priority for me after September is over.

Mizzou Weekly and the Chancellor’s Weekly Update continue to be forwarded to the membership.

Question for the Board – What do you think about having the “Announcement MU Info” also forwarded? If you aren’t familiar with this email, I can forward to the Board for their input.

No other news to report.

**MURA Board Meeting**

**Membership Report**

**Dick Otto**

**September 24, 2014**

I do apologize for missing yet another MURA Board Meeting. However, as the President of the Board of Directors of the Boone County Historical Society, I have a greater obligation to attend the monthly meeting of that board that meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Although my term as President of BCHS will end at the end of the calendar year, it is my intent to run for re-election. Like so many boards, there really is no contested elections, so it looks like I will continue to have conflicting meeting times for another two years. Therefore, if there is someone that would like to assume the role of “Membership Coordinator’ – I will explain what I mean by that title – I would be quite happy to assist them in learning the quirks of our data base and “pass the torch” to someone new in this position.

I view my current role in MURA as “Membership Coordinator” – I am not, nor is there a select group of folks that have the sole responsibility of soliciting individuals for membership in MURA. This is a shared responsibility that should be assumed by each and every member of the organization. We all have the opportunity to recruit folks to MURA. As the “Membership Coordinator” and with the assistance of others, we will get new members and renewing members into our data base. However, we all must do our part to recruit new members. I have very much enjoyed meeting with those planning on retiring and would hope to continue that in the future.

Looking at our numbers – I think there are some positive signs. As of todays’ date we have 852 folks “current” on their dues. Life members total 693. Members paid through 2016 total 7. There are a number of folks that want to send in annual dues every time they get a paper copy of the newsletter. I return checks to folks that want to pay annual dues for more than 2 years out. There are 45 members paid through 2015 and 108 paid for 2014 – the current year. We have 36 that last paid dues for 2013 and 31 that last paid for 2012. I think those are pretty good numbers considering the comparable numbers for 2009 was 62, for 2010 it was 56 and for 2011 it was 77. To the extent that these numbers are somewhat correct, the trend for losing annual members seems to be going in the proper direction.

Since everyone hearing this message is a “member” of the “Membership Committee” by virtue of their membership in MURA, I would encourage everyone to write down the following website for easy access to a membership application – <http://mura-missouri.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/74/2013/11/MURAMembershipAppp.pdf>

A special “Thanks” to Rich Anderson for presenting this report in my absence.

**MURA PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Tom Henderson**

**September 24, 2014**

1. Fall Social reminder for October 17, 2014 from 4-6 pm at the Reynolds Alumni Center will be prepared for Barb Harris to share with the membership in early October. Arrangements are the same as in the past with a basic cover charge per person and a cash bar provided.
2. Fall Information meeting program on November 15th is set with speakers to include a representative from UM Human Resources to discuss future of medical coverage for university employees and retirees. Additional program speaker/s from Posinelli law firm’s governmental relations unit in Jefferson City will discuss the upcoming issues associated with the 2015 legislative session. Particular focus will be issues related to higher education and budget related items that might affect higher education and the University of Missouri in particular.
3. Preliminary planning for the holiday luncheon on Dec. 20 will begin in the near future.
4. Tom Henderson reported to members of the program committee on September 16, 2014 on his participation in the bi-annual meeting of the Association of Retired Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). Among the main takeaways from the conference included the growing tendency of among 100+ participating institutions to receive some type of institutional support from their respective institutions. This trend was particularly true when the organizations were centered in university structures or were affiliated in some way with such departments or units.
5. The support also has led to more organizations beginning work to demonstrate their retired members’ value to their institutions of higher education. This trend is coupled not only to the need to show accountability for resources received whether they were work space, personnel, or in-kind services such as IT and/ or printing support but to a general desire to have MURA like organization and members to be seen as assets rather than liabilities to their campuses. The other outcome of this dynamic is the growth of membership interest in advocacy by the membership of each retired organization with its parent institution around the issues of retirement and medical benefits.
6. That leads to the final observation from the conference that the number one activity cited in two surveys by our nationwide counterparts is volunteerism within the campus setting. The activities range from participation in advancement campaigns to support of community activities such as United Way to mentoring students and new faculty and the myriad of other ways retiree’s contribute to the intellectual, social, and general welfare of the campus. In light of that observation, an ad-hoc subcommittee of the program committee composed of Tom Henderson, Dr. Jo Turner, and Ms. Sandy Stegall have met initially to explore the feasibility of capturing the amount and value of volunteer effort expended by MU/UM retirees on behalf of our campus. The subcommittee will continue to keep the program committee and board apprised of our activities as its work unfolds.

**September 24, 2014**

**Submitted by Don Sievert**

**Faculty Council Report for MURA Board**

1. At the Faculty Council retreat in late August, Chancellor Loftin was asked about the prospects for Non Tenure Track teaching faculty with the growing concern about AAU membership and ranking of MU within AAU. As graciously as he could, he explained that there is no money, that the rewards of teaching are not all monetary, etc. The message was positively expressed though simple and grim in import.
2. Council had a lengthy discussion of Thursday night football game for MU on the home field. Various views were expressed; Council Chair summarized them both to Council and in a letter to the Director of Athletics. It sounds as though one such game every four years will take place in Columbia.
3. Much discussion about Title IX has taken place. There is also much concern about alcohol imbibing general and in relation to sexual assaults. Some of us attended an Alcohol Summit where an extensive discussion of the problems of alcohol overuse from junior high through higher education levels was held. Kim Dude will present a report, with recommendations.

1. Considerable dissatisfaction with both midyear and end of year raises has been expressed. The Chancellor has heard some about this and has promised to provide some generalized information about raises awarded.
2. Pickard Hall is being examined for radioactivity. It will cost at least $10 million to have it completely studied. Then will come the decisions about what to do with the building. Don’t set a date for visiting it just yet. Go North instead.
3. Council has not met since the Voluntary Separation Program has been announced.

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