

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**April 18, 2018**

**Members present:** Margie Sable, Jo Turner, Marty Townsend, Debbie Robison, Linda Cook, Bob Churchill, Don Seivert, Betsy Garrett, Barbara Schneider, Larry Windmoeller, Doris Littrell, Nancy Johnson, Dick Otto, Barb Harris, Leslie Palmer, Brian Foster, Gary Smith, Kee Groshong, Ken Hutchinson, and Bill Fisch

The meeting was called to order by President Margie Sable at 2:00 p.m. Dick Otto shared a compliment from a new member in Illinois who submitted a note saying thank you for monitoring retiree benefits especially health benefits. Barbara Schneider seconded the expression of gratitude. Members present introduced themselves and welcomed new members.

**MINUTES:** Leslie Palmer

The minutes of the MURA meeting held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018, were presented. Motion to approve by Gary Smith; Doris Littrell, seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**: Debbie Robison (see reports for Cash Flows Statement for the nine plus months ended April 15, 2018)

MURA’s cash in the operating fund increased by $5,997 during this time frame because receipts exceeded cash disbursements by $3,732 and a transfer from the investment fund was made for $2,265.

Other observations regarding the financial statements:

* Dues are about $3,017 ahead of last year at this time. $2,708 of this increase is in lifetime memberships.
* Most MURA events are now largely being collected online through the Alumni Spaces (AS) portal. The cost to MURA is a 5% transaction fee. This 5% fee covers both the cost to use the Alumni Spaces portal and the credit card transaction fee.
* Since the reports from Alumni Spaces have been difficult to obtain, $1,785 of their last transfer has been assumed to be donations for the spring social event but some of this amount may be breakfast fees. Once the necessary reports have been obtained from AS, a correction to the financial statements will be made if needed.
* MURA is obligated to transfer the donations collected for the spring social to MU for the scholarship. Once all funds have been collected and accounted for, the transfer will be made.
* The Board authorized a contribution by MURA to the MURA Scholarship Endowment Fund up to $10,000. This is a matching contribution based on member donations. As of this date, $2,265 has been donated by MURA to MU for the Scholarship. This $2,265 represents MURA’s match of member contributions made through December 31, 2017.

**Treasurer's Report (Continued)**: Debbie Robison

Overall, the Association is in good financial condition. The recent dues increase approved by the membership should place MURA in good financial shape for many years to come.

**President's Report**: Margie Sable

Margie cites a great year as MURA President as well as a Spring Social that went very well. In fact, President Choi has offered his home again for the Fall MURA Social. Upcoming events in the 2017-2018 MURA calendar year include the picnic, Chancellor’s luncheon, and two more breakfast meetings**.** There are still some improvements needed with the portal provided by Alumni Spaces; the company has been contacted and the problems will be corrected. A membership database meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, to explore additional functions and possibilities for use of the data. Barb Harris will work with Dick Otto to attempt to identify what membership data can be transferred. Thanks, Barb, for working to keep the membership data current; your expertise is an invaluable contribution for MURA members. A Communications Chair will need to be identified for the 2018-2019 calendar year as Barb will be stepping down.

Margie announced that she has appointed Bill Fisch as the Chair of the Ombudsman Committee and Barb Schneider will be the MURA representative to Osher.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Program COMMITTEE:** Jo Turner

The MURA Program Committee met on April 11, 2018. Many thanks to those Program Committee members who helped at the meeting as well as who worked to make the Spring Social a great success. President Choi has again offered his home for a barbecue or picnic as the venue for the Fall Social. Comments centered around the importance of maintaining a relationship with the President, using the money collected as a contribution to the scholarship fund, offering this event or possibly another event that is less expensive, keeping the event less formal, etc. Jo will share ideas with the committee members as well as the President’s staff person, Ashley Rhoads, to see if it is workable. The Chancellor’s luncheon event is scheduled for Friday, May 18, at Reynold’s Alumni Center with the Resource Fair beginning at 10:00 a.m.; the Luncheon is at 11:30 a.m. Larry Windmoeller has coordinated the nomination and selection of the recognition awards.

The Program Committee members are discussing the possibility of surveying MURA members about their individual interests and/or needs relative to breakfast meeting topics as well as other MURA programs. The group agreed that it would be a good idea to do such a survey over the summer using Survey Money. This will be an item for discussion at the June Program Committee meeting. Another idea is to conduct table discussions about the improvement of MURA’s support to members at the Fall Information meeting. Also, in the works, is to live stream the Fall Information Meeting in order for more members to see and hear reports from Total Rewards, Finance, etc. Also, to be considered at the June

meeting are other options to make the meetings more accessible as well. Additional ideas for outreach include making some programs available as podcasts, making better use of social media, filming or video-taping breakfast meeting speakers, etc.

**Program COMMITTEE (continued):** Jo Turner

Further, the 2018-2019 calendar for MURA upcoming events has been reviewed and is as follows:

May 1 MURA Breakfast – Speaker: Chancellor Alexander Cartwright

May 9 MURA Ray Schroeder Picnic, 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Twin Lakes Park

May 18 Chancellor’s Retiree Resource Fair and Luncheon

June 5 MURA Breakfast – Speaker: Peter Hessler

Sept 11\* MURA Breakfast – Legislative Update coordinated by Mary Ann McCollum and Tom Henderson

Sept 29 MURA Fall Information meeting – 10:00 a.m. to noon – Country Club of Missouri

Oct 2 MURA Breakfast – Speaker: The Honorable Patricia Breckenridge, Missouri Supreme Court

Nov 6\* MURA Breakfast

Dec 4\* MURA Breakfast

Dec 15 MURA Holiday Luncheon – 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – Reynolds Alumni Center

\* Speakers to be confirmed

The committee continues to try to develop marketable topics and titles for breakfast presentations that will resonate with lay people. Dick and Anne Hessler as well as Jack and Darlene Miles are to be commended for the terrific contributions they are making to support the breakfast meetings. The company has been contacted in order to continue to set up processes in the best possible wa6y to support MURA needs and requirements.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Dick Otto

There are currently 908 total members in good standing (dues are paid for 2018 and beyond).  Of the total 908 members, 797 people are LIFE members. There are 42 members who last paid dues for 2017; they are NOT included in the total membership figure (908).

Further, regarding member addresses, 12 invitations to the Chancellor’s Luncheon were returned as “bad addresses.” All 12 were for LIFE members. Dick searched various sites and has found obituaries for 6 of the 12 members whose invitations were returned.  The remaining 6 “bad addresses” are for: James and Margaret Grammar from Clark, Missouri; Lee Tudor; Louis Meinke from Fayette, Missouri; Warren Taylor; and Helga Huang. MURA members with information regarding the above-named members are asked to please contact Dick; these 6 people remain in the database.

The Staff Recognition Week has been scheduled by the Staff Advisory Council for the week of May 21, 2018. Board members are to contact Dick if interested in staffing the MURA Information Table at the May 22 Arts and Crafts event from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Memorial Union. Nancy Johnson volunteered to help as will Gary Smith and Phil Shockley. This is a good opportunity to recruit potential members at the current rate of $75 for life membership and $7.50, annual membership; the membership rates increase to $100 and $12.00 respectively on January 1, 2019.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Barb Harris

The current members of the Communications Committee are Nancy Johnson who maintains the MURA Facebook page, Maggie Walter and Pat Smith (both retired from the MU Journalism School) provide newsletter support and Judy Maseles, website maintenance. A newsletter content coordinator who will solicit articles is still needed for 2018-2019. The MURA President will continue to develop the content

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (continued):** Barb Harris

for the system-wide retirees newsletter. Although Barb will be finishing her term as MURA Communications Chair, she will continue to work with Dick in monitoring the MURA list serve group for membership distribution. Barb will also willing to do blast emails and coordinate the mailing labels for the newsletters as that is a function of the membership database. Barb and Dick both know how to manage the membership list but it would be appropriate to train another person. The Membership Committee is meeting with Rich Gooden, the person who designed the current membership database ten years ago, on Thursday, April 19, to look at multiple ways of extracting and using the data. Rich will be providing the passwords to get farther into the database functions. Finally, the Summer newsletter is expected to be distributed in July announcing the Fall Social, breakfast meetings and Fall Information meeting.

**Retirement, Health And other benefits committee:** Doris Littrell

Doris serves as the Chairperson of the Chancellor’s standing committee on retiree and staff benefits which is composed of four retirees, four staff and four faculty members. This committee is designed for a MURA member to be the designated chair. Kay Barbee, MURA retiree, volunteered to serve on this committee; the term starts the first of September; the committee meets twice a year with a representative from Human Resources who provides an update. Human Resources is currently in the process of gathering input regarding prospective changes to be made to the retirement system for current employees; this has nothing to do with employees who are already retired. The changes being considered are for people who are not yet retired. Doris will be ending her term as Chair and leaving the committee at the beginning of 2019. Key Groshong was recently appointed to the committee as a retiree. MURA has four representatives serving on the committee; Doris will check to see how many additional retirees are needed to serve beginning September 2018. Jo Turner moved that the MURA Board nominate and approve the appointment of Kay Barbee to the Retirement, Health and Other Benefits Committee if there is an opening; Barb Harris seconded. Motion passed. Rose Porter serves at the system level as MURA Representative to the Total Rewards Advisory Committee. It was suggested that an invitation be extended to someone from Human Resources at the system level to provide an update in staff benefits at the MURA Fall Information meeting on September 29, 2018.

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

**University retiree Benefits:** Rose Porter

The Total Rewards Advisory Committee serves as an advisory capacity in matters related to benefits programs and in the treatment of pay and benefits as interrelated parts of the University’s overall Total Rewards.   The benefit and retirement plans will require extensive evaluation over the next several months, which will require impactful research and decision making by the committee.  The Committee has been asked to break into two sub-group, to allow for dedicated focused effort in either the area of benefit or pension plan design.  I have been assigned to work on benefits plan design.  The work is just starting to gain the knowledge needed to understand the issues and needs.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Jo Turner reported that MURA continues to be represented at Engagement Council in looking for ways for individual retirees to contribute. It was suggested that a survey be conducted of MURA members to determine what contributions can be made. Presidential Engagement Fellows from the four campuses with unique expertise in content have been selected to promote the University. MURA might be able to nominate persons to be Fellows.

Judy Maseles and others will be meeting with Alumni Spaces to explore areas in need of improvement. In January, 75 percent of registrations were performed on line; there are 25 percent of members who are not registering on line. Jack and Darlene Miles as well as Rex Waid will continue to take pre-registrations by mail as well as collect money at the event. A meeting with Alumni Spaces will provide an opportunity for MURA representatives to explain what is currently working as well with the portal as well as to express additional needs. Debbie Robison cites the need for a report that provides the details of a transfer of money into the MURA account including who and what is represented. Further accountability is needed in making sure that all of the money collected is in fact transferred to MURA. Debbie pointed out that there is no reason to believe otherwise but a more detailed report is needed to account for transfers and uses. The Alumni Spaces representatives will be directed in the service MURA needs.

**New Business**

Larry Windmoeller introduced the recipients of the retirees’ awards who are both MURA Board Members and present at the meeting. The 2018 Chancellor’s Faculty Retiree of the Year recipient is Dr. Robert J. Churchill the 2018 Chancellor’s Staff Retiree of the Year recipient is Richard J. Otto. Janet Sapp, Executive Assistant, Chancellor’s Office reports that the Chancellor will be in attendance at the Chancellor’s luncheon; invitations will be sent to the people the honorees would like to have in attendance. Bill Fisch volunteered to serve as photographer at the event as pictures will be needed for the newsletter, website, Facebook, the Tribune, etc. Barb Harris volunteered to review the nomination form for potential updates. Larry will remove the plates from the plaques in Jesse Hall to have names engraved for this year’s recipients as well as for 2017. Many thanks to Larry for stepping up to chair the committee.

The UM Retirees’ Association Four-Campus Leadership Teams Spring Meeting with President Choi will be held at University Hall, President’s Conference Room 321 on Friday, May 4, 2018. In addition, a few people from the MURA Board will be meeting with Chancellor Cartwright in the Chancellor’s Conference Room in Jesse Hall on May 24. Linda Cook, Liaison, is asking for input regarding topics to be placed on the agenda for these meetings. A Fall four-campus leadership meeting follow up item will be the discussion of Emeriti College as a way to stay involved and collaborate as a retiree. Other suggestions included a speaker’s bureau matching faculty with groups, programs, etc.; participation as speakers on the Engagement Council; asking Human Resources to check on somebody to establish an Ombudsman with United Healthcare; help for retirees with tax problems; clarification of Flagship System versus Flagship Campus; President Choi’s vision for how the UM System might be reorganized; how retirees can help the University and help President Choi be successful; budget implications and what are the opportunities/challenges that retirees can do to help.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Next meeting of the Board is Wednesday, July 18, 2018, 2:00-4:00 p.m., 307 B Housh Conference Room, Reynolds Alumni Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie J. Palmer, MURA Secretary

MURA BOARD MEETING

April 18, 2018

2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Housh Conference Room, Reynolds Alumni Center

AGENDA

Call to Order - Margie Sable

Approval of Minutes - Leslie Palmer

Treasurer's report - Debbie Robison

President’s report - Margie Sable

Standing Committee Reports

1. Program Committee - Jo Turner
2. Education Committee report - Dick Hessler
3. Membership Update - Dick Otto
4. Communications Committee - Barb Harris
5. Other committee reports

Old Business

1. Report from Task Force on membership database and communications – Dick Otto
2. Engagement Council - Jo Turner
3. Alumni Spaces update
4. Website update
5. Ombudsman

New Business

1. Awards committee report – Larry Windmoeller
2. Questions for Pres. Choi at inter-campus meeting and for Chancellor Cartwright
3. MURA Board meetings next year are: July 18, 2018

September 19, 2018

January 16, 2019

April 17, 2019

1. Program committee meetings will be the week before the Board meetings
2. Past President meetings will be: July 25, September 26, January 23 and April 24

Adjourn

<Next Meeting: July 18, 2018, 2:00-4:00, 307 B Housh Conference Room, Reynolds>

