

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**April 22, 2020**

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order at 2:02 pm on April 22, 2020, via Zoom.

Those in attendance were president Betsy Garrett; president-elect Ruth Tofle; past presidents Ken Hutchinson and Jo Turner; secretary Mary Licklider; treasurer Donna Johanning; at-large members Bill Fisch, Brian Foster, Susan Hazelwood, Mary Jo Herde, and Nancy Johnson; committee chairs Kay Barbee, Linda Cook, Barbara Harris, Ina Linville, Dick Otto, and Mary Anne McCollum, co-ombuds Nancy Schultz and Marty Townsend; ex officio members Linda Lorenz, Judy Maseles, Rose Porter, Barbara Schneider, Don Sievert, and Maggie Walter; and guest Frank Schmidt.

**Minutes**

Donna Johanning recommended amendment of the second paragraph of the Finance Committee report section of the January 20, 2020, minutes to clarify the Committee’s recommendation. Mary Jo Herde moved approval of the minutes of the January 20, 2020, meeting with the suggested amendment. The motion was seconded by Dick Otto and unanimously approved.

**President’s Report**

The president’s report included the following items:

* The president thanked the Board for its adaptability in continuing MURA business during the COVID-19 pandemic.
* In the Board election, 225 members voted electronically, and 12 made positive comments about keeping membership informed and providing the opportunity to vote electronically. Art Jago was recognized for setting up and managing the election so smoothly.
* President-elect Ruth Tofle successfully nominated MURA for the group-shared governance award. The president thanked all who worked on the nomination and noted that this recognition includes a cash award of $1,000 to MURA.
* The recent town hall by University leadership revealed some retiree questions and anxieties. In response to a MURA request, a webinar for retirees is scheduled for May 6 at 11:00 a.m. Retirees may submit questions ahead of the webinar, which will be recorded and posted to the MURA website.
* The regular 4-campus retiree association meeting will rescheduled for the following week.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The treasurer’s statement of cash flows was approved as presented. The President thanked those involved in getting refund checks to members for MURA’s cancelled events. Mary Licklider moved approval of the treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Standing Committees**

Finance Committee. Chair Donna Johanning presented the proposed budget for 2020-21 and noted that the uncertainty of planned events and anticipated low returns on the investment account may require budget adjustments during the year and that 2020-21 will likely end with a net reduction in the balance on hand. Ruth Tofle moved and Susan Hazelwood seconded approval of the budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

Awards Committee. Chair Mary Jo Herde thanked committee members for their work; announced and conveyed congratulations to the awardees for the Chancellor’s Retiree of the Year award, Ron Geren and Brian Brooks; and reminded the Board that the annual luncheon has been cancelled. Dick Otto suggested the awardees be contacted and asked to submit something for the newsletter.

Scholarship Committee. Committee member Marty Townsend reported a January 1 scholarship fund balance of $91,951. Another $4,055 was received by March 3 for the $30 for 30 campaign, earning a MURA match of $4,000 and bringing the total balance to $100,006. Co-chair Gary Smith conveyed that the pandemic lockdown has prevented access to his office files and that, once the lockdown lifts, the balance will likely go up. The possibility of increasing scholarship awards from $500 to $1,000 was discussed briefly, and the issue was referred to the committee for development of a recommendation to the Board. Tim Parshall has expressed willingness to chair the committee following Gary Smith and Kee Groshong’s retirement as co-chairs.

Communications Committee. Chair Barb Harris reported that a newsletter will go out by early June. Shelda Eggers has resigned from her position on the newsletter, and the newsletter editors asked Board members to refer anyone that might be interested in replacing her. After two years, neither MU nor Centurylink has yet determined why Centurylink email addresses continue to inconsistently receive the biweekly emails and/or to be deleted from the mailing list. The president recognized Barb Harris for all the work she does for MURA communications.

Education and Program Committees. Program Committee member Ruth Tofle reported for new co-chairs Clyde and Cecile Bentley on the committee’ April 17 meeting. Appreciation and welcomes were expressed for the Bentleys as incoming education/breakfast co-chairs and for Linda Cook as incoming Program Committee chair. Highlights of this report include the following:

* The April Spring Social and April and May breakfasts were cancelled, and Country Club of Missouri has not charged any cancellation fees so far.
* External sponsorship of $1,500 was approved by Central Bank of Boone County for the Spring Social, and another ask will be made for the rescheduled event on September 23.
* Planning for the breakfast series may carry an emphasis on history, as several anniversaries will happen in the coming year.
* Planning for 2020-21 events, many to use the free University Zoom account, included a June webinar by Andrew Clarke on food safety and possible July and August presentations.
* In the event that the fall information meeting is held via webinar, the meeting may not incur the estimated cost of $1,637 for room rental, beverages, and recording the meeting for member access.

There was a brief discussion of the free availability of the University’s Zoom Pro account to retirees for both University and personal purposes.

Government Affairs Committee. In addition to the written report circulated to Board members prior to the meeting, chair Mary Anne McCollum reported that the State’s revenue situation does not look good, and that when the legislature reconvenes they are looking at taking another 8.5% from higher education core funding. Discussion followed regarding several specific cuts, UM issuance of revenue bonds for the precision health center, and the potential for supplemental bills to adjust the State budget. Asked about whether stimulus funds will come to the University as a whole or be split between the hospitals and clinics and the campus, Ms. McCollum reported that the Governor has appointed a task force to determine how stimulus funds will be distributed.

Membership Committee. Chair Dick Otto thanked Board members who made phone calls to ensure all members knew about the March breakfast cancellation. The calls helped to update the membership database. There are currently 900 members in good standing and another 60 who were paid through 2019. Board members were asked to examine the membership list, report any deceased members, and use the list to see who might be recruited to join MURA, particularly now as people are feeling less connected. Barb Harris offered to send emails to the 60 who were paid through 2019 to encourage continued membership.

Ombuds. Marty Townsend and Nancy Schultz reported minimal ombuds inquiries this year, and that the couple people who did make inquiries received ready answers.

Past Presidents. Ken Hutchinson asked to step down as chair of the group and reported that the committee plans to meet April 23.

Retirement, Health and Other Benefits. Chair Kay Barbee is identifying committee members who want to continue to serve and those that need to be replaced. She reported working with Carol Wilson to resolve an issue that temporarily prevented the Kilgore’s pharmacy on Providence Road from participation in the Express Scripts network.

**Special Committees and Liaisons**

University Liaison–Administration. Linda Cook reported that the spring meeting with the Chancellor was cancelled following his resignation. The spring 4-campus retiree association meeting will take place via Zoom. President Garrett thanked Ms. Cook for her work. As she moves to new MURA roles, President-elect Tofle has tapped Cecil Moore to take over as MURA liaison to University administration, and Ms. Cook has already started to orient him to the position. Ken Hutchinson added his thanks to Ms. Cook.

Staff Council Liaison and Facebook Administrator. Nancy Johnson reported that she hopes to connect again with Staff Council when the pandemic lockdown lifts. She encouraged Board members to like the MURA Facebook page.

Faculty Council Liaison. Don Sievert reported several Faculty Council actions:

* Faculty Council put forth a letter asking the community to treat the current pandemic as a medical matter and to avoid referring to it in ethnic or geographical terms.
* Faculty Council endorsed alternatives to standard grading procedures for the spring semester.
* Faculty Council will vote April 23 on non-tenure track ranked faculty representation on the Council.

Ruth Tofle offered thanks to Dr. Sievert for his service. In deference to term limits for voting members on Faculty Council, Art Jago will take over as the MURA liaison and Dr. Sievert will serve as his alternate.

Sponsorship Committee. Ina Linville reported on the $1,500 sponsorship from Central Bank and asked Board members to let the committee know if they are aware of sponsors that could potentially be good fits with MURA.

MU Engagement Council Representative. Ina Linville reported on University web links for COVID-19 resources and for submitting additional resources. Jo Turner suggested that these resources might make a good newsletter article.

Newsletter Editor-in-Chief**.** The president acknowledged Maggie Walter’s work and the quality of the newsletters this year. Dr. Walter noted plans to put together a glossary of journalistic terms for Board reference. The May/June newsletter will be the first time MURA runs a fourth newsletter per year, and stories should be submitted by the first week of May.

Osher Lifelong Learning Liaison. Barbara Schneider reported that Osher is grateful for the partnership with MURA. All of two or three of the spring semester classes are continuing via Zoom. Summer session dates have not yet been determined. The School of Medicine has decided to make its Osher series on new and interesting medical issues available to the public.

Total Rewards Advisory Committee Representative. The president thanked Rose Porter for her service as MURA’s representative to this committee. Dr. Porter reported that the committee isn’t working on anything currently that will impact retirees.

United Way Representative. Linda Lorenz reported $82,171 was raised from retirees for the 2019 United Way campaign and that preparations are underway for the fall campaign. In response to a question, she noted that MURA would be recognized if it were to donate to the special campaign for pandemic relief.

Webmaster. The president thanked Judy Maseles for her work on MURA’s website and Paypal account. Dr. Maseles reported plans to move the newsletters to a single location on the site.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

Total Rewards Advisory Committee Representative. President-elect Tofle presented the MURA executive committee’s rationale for nominating Betsy Garrett to serve as the new MURA representative to this committee. Ken Hutchinson moved endorsement of this nomination. Susan Hazelwood seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Bylaws Special Committee. President Garrett appointed Art Jago (chair), Nancy Johnson, Jo Turner and Mary Licklider to a Bylaws Special Committee and charged the committee with review of the bylaws relative to the electronic conduct of MURA business, including elections and Board meetings, and review of the voting rights of committee co-chairs. President Garrett expressed approval of committee consideration of the option of policies and procedures to support the bylaws. The committee is to report at the July Board meeting. Dick Otto moved approval of appointment of Art Jago to chair the committee. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Announcements**

President-elect Tofle thanked President Garrett for her service and reminded the Board that the president’s priorities for the year included an emphasis on health and wellbeing.

The president thanked Board members for their willingness to participate in a Zoom meeting and for the work of the Board members and chairs. She reminded members to help identify someone to work with newsletter layout.

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider

Secretary