



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2021

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order via Zoom at 2:00 p.m.

Those present introduced themselves by telling of one place they recently enjoyed visiting. Those present included 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, Judy Nolke, Donna Otto and Frank Schmidt; committee chairs and co-chairs Barbara Harris, Tom Henderson, Mary Anne McCollum, and Dick Otto; co-ombuds Carrie Lanham and Marty Townsend; University liaison Cecil Moore; and ex officio members Linda Lorenz, Judy Maseles, Karma Metzgar, Libby Miederhoff, Barbara Schneider, and Gary Smith.

### **Minutes**

Dick Otto moved approval of the minutes of the April meeting as provided, and Betsy Garrett seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **President's Report**

The President's report included the following items:

1. Noted the loss of Bill Fisch, a long-time MURA member and elected Board member at large
2. Welcome and thanks to new Board members
3. Thank you to the Board for sending updates to the Policy and Procedures Manual
4. Increasing costs of breakfasts and PayPal; hybrid delivery of programming for the 2021-22 year; and reconvening the ad hoc sponsorship committee
5. UM efforts to communicate with University retirees and pre-retirees
6. Information technology issues, including .edu email, hybrid delivery and online registration for MURA programs, the upcoming member survey, UM information technology support staff assigned to MURA, a MURA Microsoft Teams site, and linking registration with PayPal.
7. Proposed goals for 2021-22 included growing a diverse MURA membership, partnering with collaborators and sponsors, tapping information technology to advance MURA objectives, and increasing the scholarship endowment.
8. Request for additions and corrections to the MURA leadership directory

### **Treasurer's and Finance Committee Reports**

The treasurer's statement of cash flows reported a cash balance on June 30, 2021, of \$8,988.70 and an investment account balance of \$101,057.73.

Finance Committee. Chair Donna Johanning presented an FY2021 budget analysis comparing 2020-21 budget and actual with the 2021-22 budget. Ina Linville moved approval of the treasurer's reports; Marty Townsend seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Standing Committees**

Program and Education Committees. Barbara Schneider reported for the Program and Education Committees. Fall breakfast meetings are currently scheduled to be in person at the Country Club of Missouri and also virtual via Zoom webinar. Member fees will be \$15 for in-person and \$5 for virtual participation. A subcommittee led by Art Jago is developing a member survey to be distributed via email

in early August. Barbara Schneider reminded members of the first breakfast scheduled for September 14, 2021. President Tofle announced that MURA is moving away from paper checks for event registration.

Membership Committee. Co-chair Dick Otto reported a membership increase of 3.3% over the last six months: 895 life members in good standing: 37 members paid for 2021 and 858 life members. Another 35 paid for 2020 but have not yet paid for 2021. He thanked Karma Metzgar for her help in reaching members the Committee had previously been unable to reach.

University Liaison – Administration. Liaison Cecil Moore reported on the spring UM Town Hall, the four-campus retiree association leadership meeting with President Choi, and the semi-annual meeting of MURA leaders with President Choi. The spring Town Hall was held virtually on May 12, 2021, and viewed by 412 households. The event focused on .edu email policies, retiree communications, and benefits. The next Town Hall will be scheduled in mid-October prior to the fall benefits open enrollment period.

In the meeting with retiree association leaders, President Choi commented on the impacts of the COVID pandemic, recent commencement exercises, legislative initiatives and UM budget projections, MU's AAU status, enrollment projections, and priorities for each campus. During this meeting, the spring Town Hall was reviewed, and updates were provided by UM personnel on retiree email policies, UM finances and pension plan, human resources issues, retiree communications, and the Total Rewards Advisory Committee (TRAC).

In the meeting between MURA leaders and President Choi, MURA President Ruth Tofle summarized MURA's positive contributions to the University community. Dr. Choi commented on the importance of informed advocacy and an institutional culture of accountability. Discussion of ongoing activities included efforts to reach retirees and pre-retirees, information technology challenges, planning a spring social at Providence Point, and a UM retiree Town Hall in the fall.

Retirement, Health & Other Benefits–TRAC. Betsy Garrett reported that the Total Rewards Advisory Committee heard presentations from four companies for a new Medicare Advantage plan. The selected contractor is likely to be announced in the next month. She also reported on the uptick in COVID cases in Boone County and recommended the covidactnow.org site for information about infection rates. MU Health is seeing patients from southwest Missouri again because those hospitals are full. Two surrounding counties currently have greater than 30% positivity rates.

Scholarship Committee. Chair Tom Henderson reported that as of June 30, 2021, the scholarship endowment received \$29,192, spent \$6,807, and awarded \$2,500 during 2020-21. The endowment ended the year with a principal balance of \$124,279, nearly a \$14,000 increase in just three months. Members have again been invited to volunteer at the book store when students return in the fall.

Awards Committee. Chair Mary Jo Herde reminded the Board that it is not too early to suggest names for next year's Retiree of the Year awardees, particularly in the faculty category.

Government Affairs Committee. Chair Mary Anne McCollum reported that the State is beginning the 2021-22 fiscal year with a record surplus. Legislation was signed to give Southeast and Northwest Missouri State Universities state-wide missions, remove the tuition cap on all public universities, and enact name, image, and likeness provisions for student athletes. Candidate announcements continue for the 2022 election, and the redistricting commission has been appointed. Tom Henderson discussed the current status of plans for vaccination incentives and for employment of the next director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

## **Special Committees and Liaisons**

Audit Committee. Chair Libby Miederhoff reported on the ease of this year's audit because Zoom operations limited expenditures this year and because the treasurer did a wonderful, timely, and accurate job.

Facebook Administrator. Karma Metzgar reported on the transition between herself and Nancy Johnson for administering the MURA Facebook page, which has 98 followers. She noted that the Facebook page represents an opportunity for potential members to find MURA and to encourage their engagement with MURA.

MU Engagement Council. Karma Metzgar reported on efforts to build town and gown partnerships. On June 23 the Council will discuss bringing broadband access to Missouri communities.

Faculty Council Representative. Art Jago summarized the Faculty Council's Annual Report prepared by chair John Middleton and offered to add Board members to his email distribution list for notes on Faculty Council meetings. Meetings will be held via Zoom in 2021-22.

## **Unfinished Business**

Mary Licklider asked if there were Board members willing to help determine how best to use MURA's Microsoft Teams site. Donna Otto, Karma Metzgar, Ina Linville, and Ruth Tofle volunteered to work with Mary Licklider to develop a strategy for MURA use of this resource.

Marty Townsend reported that the fee for daily University parking permits has increased to \$7 for surface lots and \$9 for covered parking. Individuals must go to the General Services Building to obtain a permit. Marty Townsend will inquire about making these available online.

## **New Business - none**

### **Announcements**

Mary Beck is retiring in August. She has served co-commander for MU Health's Covid incident command and has done incredible work for all of us.

Donna Otto noted that Dr. Whitt of MU Health is encouraging his staff to wear masks.

Donna Johanning asked about the deadline for the next newsletter, which will be the end of July for the issue coming out during the third week of August.

The President reminded members to look carefully at the leadership directory and send her additions and corrections. She also thanked Ina Linville and Barb Harris for their help and work for MURA.

Marty Townsend moved adjournment. There was a second, and the motion passed unanimously at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider  
Secretary