



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2021

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order via Zoom at 2:01 p.m.

Members were asked to respond to roll call with their favorite thing about autumn. 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, and Art Jago; committee chairs and co-chairs Clyde and Cecile Bentley, Barbara Harris, Tom Henderson, and Mary Anne McCollum; co-ombuds Carrie Lanham; University liaison Cecil Moore; and ex officio members Karma Metzgar, Libby Miederhoff, Barbara Schneider, Gary Smith, and Maggie Walter.

Minutes

Betsy Garrett moved and Mary Jo Herde seconded approval of the minutes of the July meeting as provided. The minutes were unanimously approved.

President's Report

The President's report included updates on MURA's goals for the year:

1. Thanks to Clyde and Cecile Bentley for developing the hybrid breakfast series; Judy Maseles, Dick Otto, and Jo Turner for updating membership information and developing online registration; Mary Licklider for initiation of the MURA Teams site; and Art Jago, Margie Sable, Nancy Johnson, and Barbara Schneider for conducting and analyzing the membership survey
2. Plans for email distribution of *MURA News* and thanks to Maggie Walter and Ginny Booker for the quality of the newsletter
3. Central Bank/Central Trust Company support of the breakfast series and holiday event
4. Work with UM President Choi's team to improve outreach to current retirees and pre-retirees and thanks to Jo Turner for her work on this issue
5. Communication with UM System personnel regarding timing of notices prior to termination of retiree email accounts
6. Thanks to Ted Tarkow, Jeannette Brown, Jack and Darlene Miles, Clyde Bentley, Chris Weisbrook, Gary Smith, and Phil and Jan Harrison for volunteering at the book store to benefit the MURA scholarship fund
7. Action items growing out of the interests expressed in the membership survey for MURA advocacy, town halls, and educational information on retirement and other topics; plans to communicate survey information; and a theme of engagement and volunteerism for the 2022 newsletter

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's statement of cash flows reported a cash balance on August 31, 2021, of \$12,310.43 and an investment account balance of \$107,335.82. Mary Licklider moved and Ina Linville seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously

Standing Committees

Program and Education Committees. Ina Linville reported that the Program and Education Committees welcomed members to the breakfast on September 14 at the Country Club of Missouri and also online. The Holiday luncheon is scheduled for December 1 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. The Program

Committee has reviewed membership survey results and is planning to use this information to guide its work. Clyde and Cecile Bentley noted that the processes for hybrid programming are still being refined, but the breakfast went well overall. Topics for future fall breakfasts will be Addressing Homelessness in Columbia/ Boone County, Update on the NextGen Health Institute, and History on the Plate: Fulbright Research in West Bengal.

Membership Committee. Co-chair Jo Turner reported that as of September 7, 2021, MURA had 894 members in good standing: 37 members paid for 2021 and 857 life members. Another 35 paid for 2020 but have not yet paid for 2021. A link to the PowerPoint Welcome to MURA presentation is included with the Communication Committee's welcome email to all new members. Membership records were updated for persons whose MURA newsletters had been undeliverable or who have not responded to requests for renewal of annual memberships. With the implementation of the online membership application, online membership information and processes for handling membership application were updated. Thank yous were extended to those who helped with these efforts.

University Liaison – Administration. Liaison Cecil Moore reminded the Board that the next town hall is scheduled for October 7 from 1:00-2:00 pm, and the fall meeting of the four campus retiree associations' leadership with President Choi is scheduled for October 15 from 1:00-3:00 pm. Another town hall focused on pension and benefits will be scheduled for the spring.

Awards Committee. Chair Mary Jo Herde encouraged Board members to suggest names for next year's Retiree of the Year awardees, particularly in the faculty category.

Scholarship Committee. Chair Tom Henderson reported that as of September 8, 2021, the scholarship distribution account balance was \$4,910.01 and the endowment balance was \$126,793.31. Ted Tarkow was recognized for coordinating the volunteer work at the book store. Gary Smith suggested inviting scholarship recipients to speak briefly at one of the breakfasts, and Betsy Garrett suggested inviting the recipients' parents who are University employees as well.

Government Affairs Committee. Chair Mary Anne McCollum reported that the General Assembly convened September 15 for the annual veto session. Net general revenue collections decreased 22.5% compared to August 2020, but no withholdings are anticipated. The UM System's primary goal for the upcoming budget is an increase in core funding from which all campuses benefit. Candidate announcements continue for the 4th and 7th Congressional districts. Tom Henderson added that the March federal stimulus will yield nearly \$22 million in additional student aid and about the same amount for the institution itself. CARES Act money is being sought for the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

Special Committees and Liaisons

Membership Survey. Survey chair Art Jago reported that the survey was sent to 718 members. He thanked those who helped with the survey. Of the 266 responses, 39% came from faculty and 61% from staff retirees; 14% of respondents live more than 100 miles from Columbia. Committee conclusions and recommendations included the following:

1. MURA's advocacy role was rated most highly of its four constitutional roles.
2. Town halls were the most highly valued of MURA activities.
3. Communications and programs, particularly online programming, are well-received, and respondents eagerly offered recommendations for the Program Committee. There is still concern among members about in-person programs while Covid numbers remain high.
4. As in the 2018 survey, members are highly satisfied with their health and somewhat less satisfied with their pension benefits. Members count on MURA to advocate for retirees' interests.

5. More promotion and education about MURA are needed for those nearing retirement or recently retired, particularly through the UM Benefits Office.
6. Respondents report donating 519 hours per month to MU and/or UM units and indicated interest in knowing about more volunteer opportunities.
7. With only a few exceptions, retired faculty and retired staff responded similarly to survey questions.

Jo Turner commended the committee on its work and encouraged the Board to remember that MURA serves members spread across the country. President Tofle is working to get an audience with UM System personnel to share survey results with key UM System leaders. Betsy Garrett suggested going directly to the health benefits personnel less involved in the Next Gen Health opening to meet prior to the October town hall.

MU Engagement Council. Karma Metzgar reported Engagement Council meetings scheduled for September 15 and November 17, 2021, and January 26, March 23, and May 18, 2022. The September 15 meeting included reporting on data mining and cleaning and creation of a “town and gown” website to help the public find MU resources.

Facebook Administrator. Karma Metzgar reported followers of the MURA Facebook page are up from 98 on July 1 to 132 on September 6. She asked Board members to like, share, and comment on posts, invite Facebook friends to follow the MURA page and to let her know of information and pictures to be posted to the page to help share MURA’s messages.

United Way Representative. Linda Lorenz submitted a report noting that 2021 is the 75th anniversary of the Heart of Missouri United Way. The campaign will run from September 27 through November 19.

Unfinished Business - none

New Business - none

Announcements

Maggie Walter thanked Board members for providing information and expressed appreciation for the work that Ginny Booker does on the newsletter.

Mary Licklider reminded members that the email with Board materials included login information for a Teams training workshop to be held on September 16 from 1:00-2:00 pm. Board members were encouraged to share the workshop login information with their committees as they deem appropriate.

Betsy Garrett and Ruth Tofle encouraged Board members to send questions in advance for the town hall on October 7 to allow time for developing the most complete answers. Tom Henderson reported that the health care contract was awarded to United Health Care and that, instead of Express Scripts, United Health Care will also be responsible for the pharmaceutical coverage.

President Tofle thanked Board members for their work.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider
Secretary