



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2023

Members present included president Ina Linville; past president Ruth Tofle; president-elect Ken Dean; secretary Mary Licklider, and treasurer Donna Johanning; at-large members Debbie Allen, Mark Banks, Art Jago, Donna Otto (until 2:57 pm), and Frank Schmidt; committee chairs and co-chairs Betsy Garrett, Carrie Lanham, Mary Anne McCollum, Dick Otto (until 2:54 pm), Mark Stewart, Ted Tarkow, and Jo Turner; *ex officio* members Karma Metzgar and Cecil Moore; and guests Chris Bouchard, Suzette Heiman, Sherri Helm, and Jim Scotts.

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order via Zoom at 2:12 p.m. by MURA President Ina Linville.

Minutes

Jo Turner moved and Dick Otto seconded approval of the minutes of the September meeting with a typo correction. The motion was approved unanimously.

President's Report

The president's report included the following topics:

- Amplify the Voice of Retirees. MURA officers met with UM President Choi and Vice President for Human Resources Fischer on November 18, 2022.
- Communicate. MURA met with the UM retiree associations and UM personnel on November 5, 2022 via Zoom.
- Educate and Socialize. Over 400 individuals connected to the Fall Town Hall, and nearly 90 attended the Holiday Social. The raffle at the Social raised \$750 for the scholarship fund.
- Governance. The annual business meeting will be March 15, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Country Club of Missouri and via Zoom. Members will vote on officers and bylaws changes.
- Contribute to the University Family. The October 4 breakfast featured a candidate forum. The President requested approval of the appointment of Frank Schmidt as MURA representative to the Faculty Council. Ruth Tofle moved and Ted Tarkow seconded a motion to approve this appointment. The motion passed with Frank Schmidt voting "present."

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Donna Johanning reported a cash balance on December 31, 2022, of \$ 9,817.44 and an investment account balance of \$ 101,637.77. Mark Banks moved and Ruth Tofle seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

Awards Committee. Co-chairs Dick and Donna Otto reported nominations for two faculty and one staff retirees still in the queue from last year and that the greatest challenge is getting nominations prior to the March 1 deadline. Retiree of the Year awards will increase to \$1,500.

Government Affairs Committee. Chair Mary Anne McCollum reported that the State of the State

budget message is expected to recommend a 7% increase to the core appropriation and perhaps reduce the match for capital projects to 25%.

Membership Committee. Chair Jo Turner reported 889 members in good standing as of January 1, including 34 annual and 855 life members. The membership working group provided two motions in the Board meeting materials, but the Committee opted not to submit these for approval. The changes will be brought to the Board at a later date. Discussion included the proportion of new retirees who join MURA, differences in bylaws among the four campus retiree associations, and inclusion of MURA information in retiree packets.

Nominating Committee. Chair Ruth Tofle presented the slate of 2023 officers for approval: Jim Scott for President-Elect/Program Chair, Suzette Heiman for Secretary, Sherri Helm for Member-at-Large – Staff, and Chris Bouchard for Member-at-Large – Faculty. Ruth Tofle moved and Betsy Garrett seconded a motion to present the slate to the membership. The motion passed unanimously, and the candidates were thanked and congratulated.

Program and Education Committees. Program Committee Chair Ken Dean reported topics for the spring events: February 7, Negro Baseball League; March 7, Protecting Yourself from Scams; March 15, annual meeting and “A Time Out of Time” program; April 4, Rural Health Challenges; April 10, Spring Social; May 2, Become a Birder. A June event is under consideration. The Committee is considering a request for up to \$2,000 for A-V equipment to support the option of Zoom membership meetings online access to speaker programs.

Retirement, Health and Other Benefits. Representative Betsy Garrett reported that most of current TRAC activity is relevant to current employees rather than retirees.

University Liaison – Administration. Liaison Cecil Moore reported continued engagement of the campus retiree associations. We anticipate a focus on UM’s finances and pensions for the spring Town Hall. Representatives of the campus retiree associations met virtually on November 4, 2022. Meeting topics included email account eligibility, potential fees for email accounts, the University pension fund and retirement programs, tax withholding and payroll compliance, and retiring employees’ opt-in link to campus retiree associations.

Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Committee. Chair Ted Tarkow reported that the book store volunteer initiative raised nearly \$550. The book store provided a basket for the Holiday Social. The date will be set soon for a second Shakespeare’s event. President Choi will fund two additional scholarships. Ted Tarkow moved and Ruth Tofle seconded a motion to approve the Committee recommendation that MURA raise the number of the awards to four rather than increasing the \$1,500 amount of the awards. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Special Committees and Liaisons

Engagement Council Representative. Karma Metzgar reported that the schedule for 2023 meetings has not been announced, and that reports on the last two Council meetings were included in the December MURA newsletter.

Facebook Administrator. Karma Metzgar reported that she shares two or three posts per week, using the quarterly newsletter and the bi-weekly Updates as sources.

Faculty Council Representative. Frank Schmidt reported on December Faculty Council meetings. Primary agenda items included approval of the teaching evaluation instrument, discussion of improvements in AAU metrics, and assurances by President Choi regarding the retirement fund.

Newsletter Managing Editor. Maggie Walter expressed thanks to everyone for their help in producing MURA Newsletter. She will continue in this role until June. President Linville asked whether we want to continue doing hard-copy layout since it only goes to 100 individuals.

United Way Representative. Linda Lorenz reported that MU has raised \$400,414 for United Way, \$130,911 of which was donated by retirees.

Ad Hoc Committee on MURA Policy and Procedure Manual. Chair Ruth Tofle reported that the Committee has identified items in the Policy and Procedures Manual that need revision to ensure compliance with the MURA Constitution and By-laws. Committee members suggest enlarging the committee to include broader perspectives before it comes back to the Board.

Ad Hoc Committee on MURA Policy. Chair Jo Turner reported that this committee was charged to examine MURA practices and policies relative to expectations of MURA Board members. The committee recommends that MURA develop a set of expectations and an orientation process for new Board members regarding such issues as attendance and conflicts of interest. Jo Turner moved that the Committee be charged to compile best practices and resources and provide the Board with a set of expectations and an orientation process for elected and appointed Board members that addresses participation and other expectations for implementation beginning in July 2023. Donna Johanning seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

President Linville tabled discussion about transitioning Board meeting to hybrid format.

Announcements

President Linville reminded members to see the MURA calendar for upcoming events. Donna Johanning asked about the AV equipment needs mentioned by the Program Committee, as the Finance Committee will be planning next year's budget. Discussion included the terms and intent of the sponsorship contract, and options for increasing income for the breakfast meetings.

Jo Turner reminded the Board of last year's deal for converting annual members to life members. She moved to repeat this deal. Ted Tarkow seconded, and the motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider
Secretary