



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

July 7, 2023

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by MURA President Ken Dean. Members present included president Ken Dean; past president Ina Linville; president-elect Jim Scott; secretary Suzette Heiman, and treasurer Donna Johanning; at-large members Debbie Allen, Chris Bouchard, Sherri Helm, and Donna Otto; committee chairs and co-chairs Betsy Garrett, Barbara Harris, Tom Henderson, Carrie Lanham, Linda Lorenz, Mary Anne McCollum, Dick Otto, Mark Stewart, Ted Tarkow, and Jo Turner; *ex officio* members Mary Lickliger, Karma Metzgar, Dee Montgomery, Barbara Schneider, and Ruth Tofle.

Minutes

Chris Bouchard moved and Ted Tarkow seconded approval of the minutes of the April meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Immediate Past President's Report

Past president Ina Linville summarized progress on MURA goals since April:

- Amplify the voice of retirees as we work with university decision-makers. Topics of the May 22 meeting with UM personnel included UM appropriations for 2023-24, tuition, pension plan, the October town hall, anticipated relationship with defined contribution employees who leave the University, and a potential buyout for vested employees who have left the University.
- Communicate. Communication efforts have included convening the UM retiree associations with UM personnel, *MURA Update*, *MURA Newsletter*, and the MURA website.
- Educate and Socialize. Past President Linville highlighted the MURA breakfasts and the Osher-MURA linkage.
- Governance. The Ad Hoc Committee on Board Expectations held the first MURA Board orientation, and the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the MURA Policy and Procedures Manual continues.
- Contribute to the MU Family. Accomplishments included the Retiree of the Year award, governmental affairs work, activities of the Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Committee, retiree contributions to the United Way campaign, and representation on Staff and Faculty Councils.

President's Report

The president's report included the following topics:

- Committee appointments. Mary Lickliger moved and Betsy Garrett seconded a motion to approve committee appointments as proposed.
- Vacant member-at-large position. Ted Tarkow moved and Ina Linville seconded a motion to approve appointment of Randy Diamond to fill the member-at-large position left vacant by Art Jago's passing.
- Central Bank and Trust Request. Jo Turner moved and Ted Tarkow seconded a motion to refer initial discussion of MURA policies regarding sponsors' engagement with members to

the past presidents' committee. The past presidents' committee also will evaluate the possibility of increasing the number of sponsors for MURA events.

- Breakfast cost increase. Ted Tarkow moved and Mary Licklider seconded a motion to raise breakfast cost in 2023-24 to \$17.50 to cover increases in meal costs. Donna Johanning noted that the Finance Committee supports this increase. The motion passed with two opposed.
- New emphasis for 2023-24. Recent changes to the UM retirement plan from pension-based to defined benefits will have an impact on MURA membership in the future. The board discussed the need to develop a plan to address issues related to these changes.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Donna Johanning reported a cash balance on June 30 of \$5,263.63 and an investment account balance of \$105,557.22. Ina Linville moved and Ken Dean seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

Finance Committee. Chair Donna Johanning presented the Finance Committee's proposed budget for 2023-24. Mary Licklider moved and Jo Turner seconded a motion to approve the budget as presented.

Program and Education Committees. Ken Dean reported that since March 1, four breakfast programs have been offered, garnering attendance of from 50 to 75 at each. The December breakfast has been moved from December 5 to December 12.

Government Affairs Committee. Chair Mary Anne McCollum reported on the results of the General Assembly's regular session that adjourned on May 12. The UM System will receive \$488 million in core funding, up \$25 million over last year. The Governor's vetoes included \$16.8 million for a performance-based funding model, \$15 million eMINTS funding for prosocial education training initiatives, \$5 million for MU Agriculture Extension, and \$408,536 for the State Historical Society. Including competitive grants and one-time funding, the UM System could receive up to \$789.5 million this fiscal year. Of particular concern were the line-item vetoes of the performance-based programming and Cooperative Extension funding.

Membership Committee. Chair Jo Turner reported 46 annual and 849 life members, a total of 895 members, as of July 7, 2023. The membership database has an issue that is being addressed.

University Liaison – Administration. Liaison Cecil Moore reported on the May 22 meeting of UM retiree association leaders with UM personnel. Information presented included data on finances, enrollments, budget, retirement planning, and impacts related to state funding. Attendees were assured the defined benefits plan is financially sound and secure. Concerns were expressed about how the defined contribution plan may impact perspectives of former employees as they separate from the University, including possible implications for the retiree associations. A mid-year meeting of MURA leaders with Dr. Mun Choi remains to be scheduled. The fall town hall will be held during the first week of October with details to be shared as available.

Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Committee. Chair Ted Tarkow reported that the fall bookstore

volunteer initiative will take place August 18 and August 21-24. A fall Shakespeare's event will take place sometime after Homecoming. The Committee will work this year to build on the database that will allow tracking of the academic and post-graduation accomplishments of Dickerson scholarship recipients and will also work with Financial Aid personnel to understand how "employee" is to be understood when potential recipients are identified.

Special Committees and Liaisons

Faculty Council Representative. Frank Schmidt reported Faculty Council action on the timing of major exams and assignments and on academic regulations related to students who are members of the National Guard and Reserves. Other issues discussed by Faculty Council included concern about shared governance and plans to examine promotion and tenure policy during 2023-24.

Facebook Administrator. Karma Metzgar reported 2023-24 goals for the MURA Facebook page include growth to over 200 followers, increased engagement, and at least three posts per week from September through May.

MU Engagement Council Representative. Karma Metzgar reported that the Engagement Council has not met since November 2022.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Liaison. Barbara Schneider reported that Osher's summer offerings were promoted in MURA publications, and that MURA member benefits and activities have been included in the Osher newsletter.

United Way Representative. Dee Montgomery reported that the United Way campaign kickoff will be September 21 with an MU goal of \$460,000. Last year, MURA members contributed 31% of the \$437,000 contributed by MU personnel. She also noted that to promote continuity, the MU United Way Committee has requested that all groups represented on the Committee appoint two individuals to the Committee with one individual rotating off each year.

Ad Hoc Committee on Board Policy. Jo Turner moved and Betsy Garrett seconded a motion to adopt the MURA Board Expectations and Orientation as submitted on July 7, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzette Heiman
Secretary