



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 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, and Frank Schmidt; committee chairs and co-chairs Betsy Garrett, Carrie Lanham, Mary Anne McCollum, Ted Tarkow, and Jo Turner; *ex officio* members Karma Metzgar and Cecil Moore; and guests Suzette Heiman, Sherri Helm, and Jim Scott. Following introductions, the MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order via Zoom at 2:11 p.m. by MURA President Ina Linville.

### Minutes

Ruth Tofle moved and Betsy Garrett seconded approval of the minutes of the January. The motion was approved unanimously.

### President's Report

The president's report included the following topics:

- Amplify the Voice of Retirees. MURA leaders and the leadership of the other UM campus retiree associations met with UM personnel on March 9 to plan for an in-person meeting on May 22 to discuss UM pension plan benefits and management. Board members are invited to send questions for this meeting to Betsy Garrett and Jim Scott.
- Communicate. MURA paid for postage for a mailing to recent retirees asking them to update their contact information, set preferred email and share contact information with their respective retiree associations. Mary Licklider will produce the quarterly newsletters if no one more qualified steps up.
- Educate and Socialize. The spring social was a successful event. Discussion followed about President Choi's suggestion to hold a fall social.
- Governance. The annual business meeting attracted 69 participants, and new officers and bylaws changes were approved.
- Contribute to the University Family. Six \$1,500 scholarships were awarded--four from the MURA endowment and two sponsored by President Choi. Retirees of the year, David Leuthold and Libby Miederhoff, were recognized at the spring social.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Donna Johanning reported a cash balance on March 31, 2023, of \$12,562.78 and an investment account balance of \$102,135.32. The Finance Committee will be meeting April 24 to plan the budget for next year. Ruth Tofle will provide the treasurer with the Central Bank sponsorship proposal. The Membership Committee expects costs of \$1,000 to \$1,200 to print the newsletter for members without email. Mary Licklider moved and Ruth Tofle seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

### Standing Committees

Communications Committee. Chair Barb Harris reported on efforts to identify new volunteers to

produce the quarterly newsletter and thanked Judy Maseles and Karma Metzgar for excellent jobs maintaining the MURA website and Facebook pages.

Program and Education Committees. Program Committee chair Ken Dean reported that the Committee will offer a program on June at the Jefferson Farm and Garden Extension and Education Center. The Committee discussed fall programming and has developed over a dozen potential programs. The Committee has made no decision on whether to continue to provide Zoom and recordings of programs. Discussion of this question included cost-benefit analysis, promotion of the Zoom option, and the charge for the Zoom option.

Government Affairs Committee. Chair Mary Anne McCollum reported on the State legislature's budget development process. She also shared the Flagship Council's strong opposition to changing current statute provisions that the University of Missouri shall be the state's only public research university and the exclusive grantor of research doctorates and professional degrees. Ms. McCollum left the meeting shortly after her report

Membership Committee. Chair Jo Turner reported 41 annual and 850 life members, a total of 891 members, as of April 8. The earlier referenced postcard mailing went to 10,000 retirees, and MURA will receive a monthly report of individuals interested in MURA. This has already resulted in six new members, bringing the current total to 897. Ms. Turner moved that the "upgrade to life membership option" that allows annual members to apply their past dues toward life membership dues be made available year-round. The motion was seconded by Mary Licklinder and passed unanimously. Ms. Turner will check on reports that access to the check box indicating interest in the campus retiree associations is problematic for some individuals.

Barb Harris joined the meeting at 2:49 p.m.

Ombuds Committee. Staff ombuds Carrie Lanham reported only one contact, a question about phone plans for retirees.

Retirement, Health and Other Benefits. Representative Betsy Garrett reported that she has been appointed to a second 3-year term on TRAC.

University Liaison – Administration. Liaison Cecil Moore reported on the March 9 meeting of UM retiree association leaders with UM personnel. In lieu of the spring virtual town hall, UM personnel recommended in-person sessions with retiree association leaders to foster relationships. An in-person meeting is set for May 22, and a follow-up Zoom meeting of the retiree association leaders is scheduled for June 5 to discuss and summarize the outcome of the May 22 meeting. A request has been submitted for a spring meeting of the MURA executive committee with Dr. Choi. Mr. Moore would like to end his service as the administrative liaison, and Ken Dean has a volunteer to fill this slot.

Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Committee. Chair Ted Tarkow reported plans for summer work to prepare for fall volunteering at the Mizzou Store, including MURA tee shirts for volunteers and the Shakespeare's fund raiser on May 16. He noted that six scholarships will be available for 2023-24 and Committee members believe that for now, it is preferable to increase the number of

awards to six rather than increasing the value of each award. Next year, the Committee will examine what “employee” means in the endowment language and work to build a database of all scholarship recipients.

### **Special Committees and Liaisons**

Faculty Council Representative. Frank Schmidt reported on discussion at the March 2 Faculty Council meeting with the Provost regarding campus leadership and shared governance, and with Rhonda Gibler at the March 16 meeting regarding State appropriations. Additional topics at the March 16 meeting included timing of end-of-course grades and evaluations, test-optional admissions, and timing of exams and major assignments around federal elections.

Ad Hoc Committee on MURA Policy and Procedure Manual. Chair Ruth Tofle reported that the Committee completed its review of the Policy and Procedures Manual and MURA Constitution and By-laws. Items were identified, revisions suggested, and questions raised. Those materials are ready to be turned over to a second committee to include broader perspectives of this work and in particular the relationship of these documents to the Board expectations developed by this ad hoc committee before it comes back to the Board for approval.

Ad Hoc Committee on MURA Policy. Chair Jo Turner presented the expectations and orientation process recommended by the Committee. Her written report included a motion requesting adoption of the Expectations for Elected and Appointed Board Members and the Orientation of Elected and Appointed Board Members. This motion was not presented for a vote to allow time for the two ad hoc committees to coordinate their work rather than appointing a second policy and procedure committee. However, the Board did agree to proceed with orientation of new Board members. Discussion included who will conduct Board member orientations, the terms of various Board positions, timing of orientation relative to election of Board members and approval of committee assignments, and the need for strategic planning as the retiree relationship with the University changes.

Ted Tarkow left the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

President-elect Ken Dean will be unavailable July 10 through August 12 or 13, so the July Board meeting will be held July 5, 6 or 7. Notice of the meeting date will be sent to the Board as soon as possible.

### **Announcements**

“On behalf of all of us,” Jo Turner congratulated Ina Linville on the job she’s done as president.

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Licklider  
Secretary