



**Retirees
Association**
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2024

Meeting conducted via Zoom

The MU Retirees Association (MURA) Board of Directors was called to order at 2:00 p.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, Randy Diamond, and Sherri Helm; committee chairs and co-chairs Betsy Garrett, Barbara Harris, Carrie Lanham, Linda Lorenz, Dick Otto, Donna Otto, Ted Tarkow, and Jo Turner; ex officio members Mary Lickliger, Mary Anne McCollum, Karma Metzgar, Dee Montgomery, Frank Schmidt, Barbara Schneider, Gary Smith, and Ruth Tofle.

Minutes

Jim Scott moved and Dick Otto seconded approval of the minutes of the September 13, 2023, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Betsy Garrett clarified that the Retirement, Health & Other Benefits Committee (TRAC) is not planning to conduct a survey regarding the coverage provided by United Healthcare.

President's Report

President Ken Dean highlighted the following items:

- President Choi gave MURA \$8,000 to support our activities. Ken will thank him on behalf of MURA and plans to report the use of the funds to Dr. Choi by August. Some of the funds have been used to lower the price of the breakfast meals by \$2.50 per person. Another use is to follow through on the previously authorized purchase of Zoom equipment. Mary Lickliger moved and Ina Linville seconded the approval of the purchase.
- MURA needs to identify additional venues for its programs. The facilities need to serve or be able to cater food, accommodate larger crowds (75+), provide adequate parking and offer audio-visual equipment.
- AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) offers programs and other information related to retirement. Future issues will be shared with members.
- Information item: There are Missouri state income tax changes effective in 2024 that will offer some savings to retirees.
- Suggestions for a speaker at the annual meeting on the topic of Artificial Intelligence are welcome.
- The proposed changes to Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed and clarified as needed. Ina Linville moved and Mary Lickliger seconded the motion that the Board accept the changes to the draft. The motion was approved unanimously. The draft of the revised Constitution and Bylaws will be printed in the January 2024 newsletter and distributed to MURA members. Members will vote on the changes at the March 15 annual meeting.
- The board agreed that a new survey could help add value to MURA in light of changes to the retiree database. The insights gathered could help MURA plan for the future. Contacting annual members who did not review is another way to determine how to retain members.
- MURA still has a need for a staff liaison.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Donna Johanning reported a cash balance on December 31, 2023, of \$16,118.95 and an investment account balance of \$108,636.28. Ted Tarkow moved and Dick Otto seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

Awards Committee. Co-chair Dick Otto asked that members begin to identify nominees for MURA awards. The January newsletter will have a list of awards, previous recipients and a nomination form.

Education Committee. Co-chair Linda Lorenz highlighted upcoming breakfast meetings and the spring social. Ina Linville moved and Ted Tarkow seconded a motion to add \$10 scholarship donation to the cost of the breakfasts. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Committee. On January 9, 2024, MURA had 889 members including 844 Life members and 45 Annual. A committee composed of Brenda Peculis, Mary Licklider, Barb Harris, Paul Musket, Deb Healy, and Jo Turner has begun researching options for updating and replacing MURA's current membership database. The committee hopes to have a recommendation for the MURA Board this spring.

Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee made a motion Betsy Garrett seconded to accept the slate of officers to serve as MURA Board of Directors for the 2024-2025 year. The motion passed unanimously. They are Mary Leuci, president elect; Brian Sanders, treasurer; Donna Otto, board member at large – faculty; Janie Hamon, board member at large – staff. Jim Scott, current president-elect and program chair of MURA, will move into the president's position.

Past Presidents. Two former MURA presidents will share in an upcoming program on planning for the end of life. More information to come.

Program Committee. Chair Jim Scott shared the current draft of the 2024 program schedule.

Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Committee. Chair Ted Tarkow expressed appreciation for MURA members helping at the bookstore as spring classes begin. He noted that additional funds for the Kitty Dickerson Scholarship are needed.

University Liaison – Administration. Tom Henderson reported he has been communicating with Ashley Rhode about a date for a spring four-campus retiree meeting. The date will be shared as soon as it is identified by UM administration.

Special Committees and Liaisons

United Way Representative. Dee Montgomery reported that the UM Heart of Missouri United Way campaign contributions totaled \$473,898 as of January 8. This was well above the goal of \$460,000. MU retirees donated \$180,868, or 38% of the total. Although the public phase of the MU campaign has ended, donations will continue to be included in the campaign total through the early months of 2024.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

No announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Suzette Heiman, secretary