



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2023

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 and Randy Diamond; committee chairs and co-chairs Betsy Garrett, Barbara Harris, Tom Henderson, Carrie Lanham, Linda Lorenz, Dick Otto, Mark Stewart, Ted Tarkow, and Jo Turner; ex officio members Mary Licklider, Karma Metzgar, Dee Montgomery, Debbie Robison, Frank Schmidt, and Gary Smith. Also attending was Carol Wilson, director of health and benefits for the UM System.

Presentation on 2024 CMS/Medicare Advantage Changes

Carol Wilson, UM System director of health and welfare, provided a preview of what will be presented at the upcoming Oct. 5 meeting about significant changes to the Medicare Advantage and Part D drug plans, beginning Jan. 1, 2024. Among the changes is a premium increase to the Medicare Advantage Plan.

Minutes

Betsy Garrett moved and Dick Otto seconded approval of the minutes of the April meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. It was clarified that the board approved the adoption of both the expectations and orientation for elected and appointed MURA board members documents as presented by the Ad Hoc Committee on Board Policy at its July 2023 meeting. A suggestion was made to add the location of MURA board meetings to the minutes.

President's Report

Ken Dean highlighted the following items:

- The board of directors meeting with President Choi on Aug. 18 provided the opportunity to make him aware of the value of MURA to the university. One key point shared was that some schools provide financial assistance to their retiree organizations, and President Choi agreed to do so, the amount to be determined in the near future.
- The sentiment of the MURA board is not to provide email addresses to sponsors for direct contact.
- MURA members are encouraged to participate in the outstanding program offerings. Details are available on the MURA website and in the president's emails.
- It's time to conduct a new membership survey to assess how MURA might evolve given the transition to defined benefits from pensions. A committee will be formed to determine how best to move forward and conduct the survey.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Donna Johanning reported a cash balance on June 30 of \$8,920.74 and an investment account balance of \$107,295.81. Ina Linville moved and Carrie Lanham seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

Awards Committee. Co-chair Dick Otto asked MURA members to begin to identify nominees for the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Award. Names of those deserving of the award should be sent to Dick,

along with suggestions as to whom might nominate them. A list of prior awardees is on the MURA website. Nominations will be due after the first of the year.

Communications Committee. Chair Barb Harris reported that the MURA newsletter is now being printed and mailed by Witt Print Shop, a local business off Vandiver Drive. Fewer than 100 copies are now needed to send to those with life memberships.

Finance Committee. Chair Donna Johanning reported an ending balance of \$108,283.94 as of June 30, 2023, in the annual Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund Admiral.

Government Affairs Committee. Tom Henderson shared that no motions passed during the veto session. None of the motions were related to the university.

Membership Committee. Chair Jo Turner reported MURA membership at 882 members: 840 Life members and 42 Annual, as of Sept. 6, 2023. Life membership continues to decline primarily due to death or loss of contact information.

Past Presidents Committee. Past president Ina Linville shared that the committee was unclear about the effects of the defined contribution plan for future retirees. Also, the group identified a need for a comprehensive “end of life” planning seminar for MURA members, now scheduled for April 2.

Program and Education Committee. Chair Jim Scott shared the 2023-2024 Educational Programming Schedule. Of note: The committee plans to continue the charity auction at the Holiday Social and welcomes items for the event.

Retirement, Health & Other Benefits (TRAC). Chair Betsy Garrett expressed appreciation for the clarity and ease the UM System is planning in its communication efforts regarding the changes to the health care plan. The group plans a survey regarding the coverage provided by United Healthcare.

Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Committee. Chair Ted Tarkow reported MURA volunteers served approximately 60 hours at the Mizzou Store in August, raising close to \$900 for the scholarship fund. The Shakespeare’s fundraising event is scheduled for Nov. 15.

University Liaison – Administration. Liaison Tom Henderson shared a summary of the Aug. 18, 2023, meeting of MURA leaders with Dr. Choi and UM personnel. Information presented included the value of MURA to the University, including significant financial support to the University and the United Way Campaign, significant voluntary services, voluntary service and a deep pool of institutional knowledge. Also discussed: the challenges of a changed retirement system, a request for increased financial support by the university, a need for MURA to have a seat at the table while proposals and plans are being developed, and a fall reception for MURA members on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023.

Special Committees and Liaisons

Audit. Chair Debbie Robison reported the Audit Committee completed a review of MURA financial records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, and found no problems or issues. Already addressed and included in the meeting packet: The Audit Committee suggested the MURA treasurer prepare an annual statement of activity for the Vanguard account. Chair Donna Johanning reported an ending balance of \$108,283.94 as of June 30, 2023, in the annual Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund Admiral.

Facebook Administrator. Chair Karma Metzgar reported the following goals for the MURA Facebook page in 2023-2024: Grow the number of followers to more than 200, increase engagement on the page, and to schedule 3-4 posts per week during September to May.

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

Newsletter. Managing editor Mary Licklider reported the production schedule for the fall newsletter:

- September 6 - Send request for all images and text to Board of Directors
- September 20 - Deadline for receipt of text and images
- October 1 - Draft newsletter to Ina, Ken, and Jim Scott and other volunteers for proofreading
- October 3 - Edits back to Mary from all proofreaders
- October 5 - Newsletter pdf file to Witt Print Shop for distribution

United Way Representative. Dee Montgomery reported the dates of the 2023-2024 United Way campaign are Sept. 28-Dec. 15. MURA will have a representative at the kickoff event on Sept. 28 and at the United Way highlight and check presentation at the Oct. 21 Homecoming football game. The start of the next Heart of Missouri United Way Give 5 civic matching program for retirees will be on Oct. 5.

Announcements

Ken Dean shared that updates to the Policy and Procedure manual are in progress with hope of presenting at the next board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzette Heiman
Secretary