

University of Missouri-St. Louis Retirees Association Newsletter

Volume 26 Fall 2011

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Retirees,

I don't know about you, but this has been a bizarre year for me. The perils of unemployment and the business slowdown affected my family both in Missouri and outstate, the weather was frightening and the University of Missouri once again had to struggle with further cuts in state aid. The budget picture for UM for fiscal year 2013, currently under consideration, looks even bleaker. Yet, on a clear autumn day, I feel a glow of optimism and a desire to get on with making life better for as many people as I can. I hope you feel the same, at least on the clear days.

For new employees beginning in 2012 there will be a different retiree benefit plan. This change will not affect existing retirees. In addition, there will be no increase in health plan premiums for retirees who continue with the RIM plan (see article below on our meeting with UM Interim President Steven J. Owens).

Our June election brought some new people to the Board: Mary Banis and Harry Gaffney; Fred Wilke continues to attend our meetings as the U-wide representative to the Retirement Salary and Benefits Committee (RSB). The minutes of our board meetings will continue to be posted on the UMSL webpage. The board voted to have the holiday luncheon at the Glen Echo Country Club as we did last year and the cost to retirees will be the same (see article below). Please mark your calendars for the Dec. 6th event.

Once again, our newsletter was produced by Sharon Davis, saving us considerable costs. It will be mailed only to members and several members have already signed up to receive the newsletter via email. To do that, just send me an email (garin@umsl.edu). You will receive the newsletter earlier.

UMSL is planning for its 50th jubilee year, which occurs in 2013. A number of retirees came to UMSL in the 1960s (I arrived in 1966) and there must be a bunch of interesting stories about the early years. If you have a story to tell, and can keep it to about 200 words, send it to me. I am hoping we can print a few of these as one of our contributions to the festivities.

Best wishes,

David L. Garin, President
UMSL Retirees Association

Meeting with UM Interim President Steven J. Owens

From UMSL David Garin, Dave Ganz, Fred Wilke

Retiree association representatives from four campuses met in Columbia on Sept 20th. Joining us were UM Interim President Steven Owens, VP of Human Resources Betsy Rodriguez and Assoc VP, Total Compensation, Kelley Stuck.

Health benefits were a major topic. There have been some complaints about the new administration of our RIM health plan for retirees. Those have been reviewed and there will be some changes. Analysis of claims earlier this year will lead to some reprocessing and additional reimbursements in select cases. In 2012, the RIM plan will be called myRetiree Health (MRH). There will be no premium increase. Emphasis will be on preventive care, so there will be coverage for an annual physical, blood tests, colonoscopy, etc. The catastrophic health policy will no longer be available. As a reminder, our medical is NOT a supplementary plan to Medicare. UM self-insures and Coventry will be the administrator.

MetLife notified UM that they would no longer accept new enrollment in the long term care program. Current participants only have a rate guarantee until 12/31/2012. MetLife is seeking rate approval for an increase between 45-60%. Those people already in the program must continue as individuals, not as a group. It is not yet clear what will happen to those contributors who have paid into the system for a long time.

Starting Jan 1, 2012, Walgreens will no longer contract with Express Scripts due to a financial disagreement. That could result in Walgreens no longer being an acceptable pharmacy under our current plan.

There was a June vote by the Board of Curators to move to a new retirement plan for fall 2012 (for new employees). That will not affect current employees and current retirees. Details of the new plan are evolving and may be voted upon by the Board by the end of 2011. President Owens stated that UM was able to preserve and protect the benefits of current and retired employees. (Added note: In October, the Board of Curators approved a retirement plan for new employees only starting September 2012. It will have no effect on current and retired employees.)

Interim President Owens mentioned that last year's budget was a challenge. The 5.5% increase from tuition was more than offset by an 8.1% decrease in aid from the state-, resulting in a \$58 million gap. UM came up with money by cutting staff and programs, deferring repairs, etc. For 2013, the state asked for budget negotiations to begin with a 7% cut. There is a projected \$400-500M gap that the state needs to close. Hopefully there will be increases in revenue from a recovering economy. So expect another tight year. There was a discussion of raising more state funds via an increase in the tobacco tax. There will be an initiative petition. We should support it. Even a moderate increase could raise sufficient funds to reduce the state's shortfall.

President Owens said the UM Presidential search is on track for the first round of interviews and that the number, quality, and diversity of the pool is good.

The question of email addresses came up again. At Rolla, all faculty and new staff retirees get an email address.

We asked how we can get up to date lists of retirees. Betsy Rodriguez or Kelley Stuck will ask Renata Gallup who is in charge of that.

In response to a question, we were reminded that children of employees with 5 years of service pay only 50% of tuition, employees pay only 25%.

At our UMSL RA board meeting the day before, we raised the issue of tax-exemption. I asked the representatives if their association was tax-exempt. The UMKC and Columbia retirees associations are, Rolla's and UMSL's are not. The UMSL board will raise the issue in a 2012 meeting.

We also asked the representatives from the other campuses who receive the retiree's newsletter. Columbia sends their newsletter only to members. KC sends one newsletter a year to all retirees but the other 3/yr is sent only to members (300). The UMKC association received a gift from their chancellor of \$3500, which must be spent on programs that benefit all retirees, such as the one newsletter. Rolla mails 2 newsletters/yr to members (100).

Final Farewell

Since our last newsletter, we have lost two members of the UMSL community: Virginia Cooper – May 17, 2011 and Eugene P. Schwartz – May 31, 2011

UMSL Procurement Surplus Property

Procurement Services Department hosts a surplus property sale once a month on Friday; the sale is conducted at the J.C.Penney Building/Conference Center. A posting is on craigslist.org with a brief listing of items for sale and the price. The method of payment is cash and checks (computer purchases are cash and carry only). For more information, call (314) 516-5396.

Campus Events/Information

Have you checked out **UMSL Daily**? This is the campuses new vibrant online newspaper. It can be accessed from the homepage—www.umsl.edu --look for UMSL Daily on the lower left side of the page.

The holiday season is fast approaching. Take advantage of the various shows and programs on campus. The Touhill is a great place to spend time. For general information call (314) 516-4100, for tickets call (314) 516-4949 or 866-516-4949 or visit the website at www.touhill.org.

UMSL Retirees Association Holiday Luncheon

Save the date for the **Holiday Luncheon** – Tuesday, December 6, 2011 – 11:30 a.m. at the beautiful Glen Echo Country Club. Cost: \$17.00 per person. Watch for your invitation and reply card in the mail soon.

**University of Missouri-St. Louis
Retirees Association
60 University Center
One University Blvd
St. Louis MO 63121**

**Join us for the
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
December 6, 2011**

Cost is \$17.50 per person

**UMSL Retirees Association website:
www.umsl.edu/retirees**

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