

UMSL RA General Membership Winter Meeting, December 20, 2013

President David Garin opened the meeting and introduced Martin Leifeld, Vice Chancellor Development, University Advancement-Administration, to present a Welcome from Chancellor George, who was unable to attend.

Leifeld noted enrollment to be 16,814 students, 1% over last fall and 3 students from an all-time record. Figures also show 4,250 high school students enrolled in UMSL's Advance Credit Program. He also spoke to construction underway on campus for the Science Learning building and the Recreation – Wellness Center. Ground should also be broken this summer for a Business building. The UM Board of Curators has been receptive to construction of a phased-in Nursing – Optometry building; this building will be formally presented to the Curators at their January 2014 meeting. The merger of the St. Louis Beacon and KWMU (UMSL's Public Radio) has been accomplished. UMSL's Fine Arts and Communication, UMC's Journalism School, and the Reynolds Institute are also talking toward joining this partnership to bring more educational programming to the St. Louis area.

Fred Wilke, UMSL RA member and University-wide Retirement Staff Benefits (RSB) Committee member reported that the task force working since last June to study all benefits has finished its work and will issue a report to the RSB in March; the RSB will then consider the report and will take it from there. Fred advises that no one should be expecting Cost Of Living Adjustments any time soon. A question regarding the state of Health Benefits for retirees brought Fred's observation that any considerations to be given in that area would be considerations of how to lower the cost of Health Benefits for all.

Secretary Dennis Saunders had distributed Draft Minutes of the June general meeting and asked for addition, deletions, or substitutions to those minutes. Hearing no additions, deletions, or substitutions voiced, the minutes were noted as accepted. (Included below.)

The Treasurer's report had also been distributed and Treasurer Steven Spaner discussed the report with no questions offered from the membership. (Included below.)

The Proposed Amendment to the Association's Constitution (previously discussed and available in the Newsletter had again been made available. The Amendment limits Officers' terms to a total of 3 two-year terms. With all hearings complete, members were asked to vote on acceptance for the amendment. By unanimous voice vote, the amendment to the Constitution was approved. (Included below.)

Past-President Shirley Martin asked for volunteers to join her on the Nominating committee.

President Garin noted that a 4-campus E-Newsletter will begin in January, 2014, which will provide information from all campuses and should be received by all retirees with a recorded email address. This newsletter will be distributed quarterly. If you have an idea to

communicate regarding activities, et cetera, please let President Garin know of it so it may be offered for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter.

Kent Krober, Director of Planned Giving asked for a few minutes to notify the members that he and an expert in estate planning would be Available to speak with anyone seeking more information on Estate Planning and Planned Giving following the formal part of the meeting.

After thanking Cindy Vantine and her staff for their many contributions to the overall success of the day and their considerable assistance with so many tasks for the Association, President Garin adjourned the winter meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Saunders
Secretary of the University of Missouri Retirees Association