

Minutes of the UMSL Retirees Association Holiday Luncheon and Business Meeting: December 10, 2008

The Annual UMSL Retirees Association Holiday Luncheon was held at the Millennium Student Center on the UMSL campus. Attendees were honored with musical performances from a trio of UMSL Department of Music faculty: Ms. Jeanine York-Garesche (clarinet), Ms. Alla Voskoboynikova (piano), and Ms. Stella Markou (vocals). Upon the completion of the musical entertainment, UMSL Chancellor Thomas George provided a news update on campus and system conditions and events. Chancellor George related the bad news first: the State budget is not good and there has been a hiring freeze imposed by President Forsee; all campuses and units have been instructed to prepare explanations of scenarios where a 15%, a 20%, and a 25% budget cut were imposed; some units will be eliminated or reduced as well as some employees will be placed on furlough. Following these statements Chancellor George noted the good news: enrollments are up 2.5%; graduations is up to 3100; degree production rate is up; external grants are up; private grants are up to \$17 million; a new station manager has been hired for KWMU and the station will be moving to new quarters in the Grand Center section of St. Louis, Trent Jones was named Coach of the Year in volleyball; and a new baseball field is being built on the UMSL South Campus. Chancellor George next introduced the new Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Martin Leifeld who announced that he has established a group to advise him on a charitable requests and giving program. Members of the group include UMSL RA vice president David Ganz, UMSL RA past president Shirley Martin, and Brenda McPhail, UMSL Associate Vice Chancellor.

Next on the program was an update on retirement benefits presented by Professor Fred Wilke, UM System Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee member and UMSL RA Retirees Association Board member. Fred related the status of the 2009 retirees' benefits status: no pension cuts; health care benefits are stable, no change, but the cost will increase modestly. He noted that a new vice president for benefits, Betsy Rodriguez, has been named to replace retired Ken Hutchinson. Wilke summed up his assessment of the possibility for retiree pension adjustments as: not this coming year, but that President Forsee is not opposed to such adjustments and is in favor of including such adjustments as a line item in future budget proposals. Wilke also allayed concerns over the security and health of the pension fund. He said "not to worry". It is well funded and not exposed to many of the down turns and failures present in the current economy. During the Q&A that followed questions were raised about Express Scripts' push for participants to use generic drugs. Dave Garin, UMSL RA president, noted that a 2009 program information packet and new ID card was being sent to all Express Scripts participants before the first of the New Year, 2009. RA member, Bill Moody, added that there is no change in the Express Scripts program but they are pushing the use of generic drugs to lower program costs, however, many generic drugs are cheaper from commercial pharmacies than from Express Scripts.

Following these Luncheon presentations, UMSL RA president David Garin opened the Business Meeting portion of the event. First to be recognized was Shirley Martin, past president, to announce the UMSL RA Nominating Committee for 2009-2010 Elections that take place at the June UMSL RA meeting. The named committee members are Jane Starling, Rick Blanton, and

Don Greer. Martin encouraged additional volunteers for the committee and submissions of names for any of the open officer and board positions.

Garin next recognized Grace Kennedy, treasurer, to present the Treasurer's Report. Grace handed out the report and explained the entries. The report is attached.

Finally, president Garin reminded luncheon attendees that the UM newsletter, The Spectrum, has gone electronic and is only available online. A link to the Spectrum is on the UMSL RA website: <http://www.umsl.edu/retirees/>. Dave noted that the UMSL RA newsletter WILL NOT be going electronic, yet, and will continue to be distributed through the mail. Dave announced that he is a member of an *ad hoc* committee assessing the contribution of retirees to the UM and will report on the findings at a later date. President Garin thanked Cindy Vantine, Director of University Events, and her staff for arranging the UMSL RA Holiday Luncheon. Cindy commented that the Retirees Association now has its own stand alone web address (noted above) where minutes and newsletters can be accessed.

President Garin wished all a happy holiday season and adjourned the business meeting hearing no objections.

Respectfully submitted by:
Steven D. Spaner
UMSL Retirees Association Secretary

**University of Missouri-St. Louis
Retirees Association
Treasurer's Report**

December 10, 2008

Assets:

Checkbook balance, December 10, 2008**	\$1,421.45
Certificate of Deposit (@3.2109%) First National Bank, Maturity date 05/20/09	\$1,027.24
Certificate of Deposit (@3.2109%) First National Bank, Maturity date 06/24/09	\$2,103.03
Certificate of Deposit (@2.9666%) First National Bank, Maturity date 07/03/09	<u>\$1,050.56</u>

Total Assets: \$ 5,602.28

** Balance reflects income and disbursement amounts listed below

Income:

Dues Annual renewal (August through 12/05 for 08-09) (4 @ \$10.00)	<u>\$40.00</u>
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Total Income: \$40.00

Disbursements:

UM-St. Louis Creative Services for design, Production and proofs of Fall Newsletter	<u>\$581.66</u>
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Total Disbursements: \$581.66

Grace Kennedy, UMSL RA Treasurer