

UMSL Retirees Association Board Meeting Minutes: 2013 March 15

Present: David Garin, David Ganz, Steven Spaner, Shirley Martin, Lol Barton, Don Phares, Sharon Davis, Harry Gaffney, Gary Burger, Mary Pogue Banis, Fred Wilke (RSB rep).

The meeting was called to order by board president Dave Garin at 10:05 am. Minutes of the September 14, 2012 board meeting were distributed for corrections and additions. Hearing none, Dave ruled the minutes accepted.

Item #1: Garin announced that the UMSL-RA Annual Spring Lunch and Business Meeting is set for June 4, 2013. There is no cost to the RA members as this lunch is sponsored and hosted by the Chancellor and his wife. Election of the secretary, treasurer, and three board members will take place during the business meeting. Under UMSL-RA bylaws, the past-president (currently Shirley Martin), is the chair of the nominating committee. Shirley indicated she will be contacting current board members with expiring terms to ask if they wish to be renominated. She also asked for suggestions of members to be asked to serve on the nominating committee and/or to be asked to run for an office or board position.

Item #2: Garin recognized Fred Wilke, the UMSL-RA representative on the U-wide Retirement, Salary, and Benefits Committee, to report on Committee actions. Fred noted that the retiree representatives want to have the Committee revisit the formula for determining pension increases. Under the old rule when CPI increased or active staff received increases, the President would make a request of the Board of Curators for a pension increase for retirees at 2/3rds the amount of faculty and staff increases. Fred noted that when a pension increase is awarded it is amortized over 20 years. Fred indicated that he will bring up the matter of pension increases with the new UM President, Tim Wolfe, at the next U-wide Retirement, Salary, and Benefits Committee meeting.

Item #3: Garin added to Fred's report that the system-wide retirees associations representatives have scheduled tentative dates for their quarterly meetings for April 30 (subsequently changed to May 8), July 24, and October 23. These meetings are attended by the UM President or his representative. Garin asked for volunteers from the UMSL-RA board to attend some of these meetings since he and vice-president Ganz are not always able to go. Sharon Davis volunteered to attend all three.

Item #4: Discussion about communicating with the UM retiree community lead to the topic of retirees retaining the umsl.edu email address after they retire. It was noted that when campus or system announcements are sent out, only those with a UM campus or system email receive the announcements. Sharon proposed that retention of the retiree's campus email be brought up with the new president as a way of retaining the retiree's support and contributions. Garin noted that the retiree association reps meet in a pre-meeting to set the agenda for the meeting with the president so it can be added at that point.

Sharon noted that the email addresses for the UMSL-RA newsletter and directory are restricted; i.e., not released to the university or any other organization. The newsletter was mailed to all retirees once last year, for the last time. Now all issues of the newsletter are emailed to RA members, except those that have requested to continue to receive hard copies via US mail. All newsletters and the directory are available on the UMSL-RA website: www.umsl.edu/retirees

Ganz added that new retirees get an invitation from the RA vice-president and this recruitment tool has helped add new members.

Information note: the next newsletter will go out in April and Sharon needs material/articles for the next issue.

Item #5: Garin informed the board members that he received a letter from ex-UM Board of Curators member Malaika Horne about her project to bring life-long learning to UMSL. Her project will be holding a kick-off event on April 5, 2013 at the JC Penny Conference Center. Tables at the event can be reserved for \$50 and that includes 9 attendees at the conference. The RA board expressed interest in sending out flyers in emails and in placing an article announcing the conference in our newsletter.

Item #6: Steve Spaner passed out a statement making a case for a proposal to call for the University of Missouri pension fund to divest itself of any holdings in companies that manufacture assault weapons and/or high capacity bullet magazines. The statement was intended to start a discussion. Sharon Davis voiced complete opposition to the statement and idea because she is an NRA member and views such actions as a threat to her Second Amendment rights. Gray Burger questioned the use of words that need better definition/identification; e.g. assault weapons and high capacity magazines. Don Phares questioned the RA taking a position without the sense of the full membership and, indeed, the full campus. He suggested that the chair of the Faculty Senate be requested to bring this idea up with the Senate and campus Assembly.

Spaner was requested to approach the chair of the Senate and to prepare an article outlining the issue for inclusion in the next UMSL-RA newsletter.

Item #7: Dave Ganz, who is chairing the Jubilee Celebration Planning Committee, announced that the campus web site now has a link to the Jubilee blog page where events, stories, and videos can be posted.

Garin adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven D. Spaner, secretary
UMSL-Retirees Association