

University of Missouri-St. Louis Retirees Association Newsletter

Volume 28 Fall 2012

Greetings from the President

Dear Retiree,

After a long hot summer, I am enjoying a fall afternoon on the back porch and wondering what this election year will bring next. UM President Tim Wolfe requested an additional meeting of the four campus retiree association representatives in late August. The turnout was good and my notes from that meeting are in this newsletter. We are still trying to learn what type of leader President Wolfe will become as he continues to develop his role. Will he lean toward a corporate model where he has most of his experience or toward an academic one or some blend? He had just reversed his decision on the U of Missouri Press but, surprisingly, that issue was not one we discussed. By providing you with detailed notes from that meeting, perhaps you, the reader, can get an idea for yourself.

Our UMSL board meeting followed in September and I include highlights in this newsletter. The full minutes will be approved and appear on the website months from now. Your representatives decided to provide a small subsidy for the holiday lunch this year and, I think for the first time on an invitation, leave a line for contributions. Our two biggest costs are the newsletters and the holiday lunch.

Your representatives continue to work toward having retirees recognized as part of the university family. We provide important assistance to the university and to the community in the name of the university. We also make sizeable cash contributions. Yet, in presentations about the university, while discussing and praising the roles of elements of the university, such as faculty, staff, students, and alumni, the word "retirees" are often omitted. We are a unique part of the combination that makes for a fine institution and deserve to be a recognizable part.

As UMSL approaches its 50th year, the Jubilee Committee is planning a large number of activities beginning in 2013. Check out the UMSL website for detailed information and updates. I plan to attend as many of the events as possible and look forward to seeing you there, if not at our holiday lunch in December.

Best wishes,

David Garin, President of the Board

2011-2012 Officers

David Garin, president
(314) 725-5653 garin@umsl.edu
David Ganz, vice-president
(314) 863-3799 ganz@umsl.edu
Steven D. Spaner, secretary
(636) 433-2511 sspaner@umsl.edu
Rick Blanton, treasurer
(314) 383-3936 rblanton@swbell.net
Shirley A. Martin, past president
(314) 878-6697 martinsh@sbcglobal.net

Gary Burger
(314) 664-3709 gburgerj@sbcglobal.net
Lol Barton
(314) 382-7355 lbarton@umsl.edu
Sharon L. Davis
(636) 240-8946 sldavis63379@charter.net
Don Phares
(314) 427-8651 don_phares@umsl.edu
Harry Gaffney
(636) 391-0066 mydiehard8@att.net
Mary Pogue Banis
(314) 469-0936 maryfrances2320@sbcglobal.net

Unofficial Member(s)

Cindy Vantine
Director, University Events
Marketing and Communication
cindy_vantine@umsl.edu
Fred Wilke, U-wide representative to
Retirement, Salary and Benefits Committee
(636) 698-4449 fwilke@mail.win.org

Website: www.umsl.edu/retirees

Members of the Board

Four Campus Retiree Association Meeting in Columbia

By David Garin

Representatives from the four campus retirees associations met in Columbia on August 29, 2012. Present from UMSL were David Garin, Dave Ganz and Fred Wilke all of whom contributed to this report.

We received an update from UM President Tim Wolfe. He thanked the retirees for donating funds, for serving as adjuncts, for service hours to UM. He said that he needs to do a better job of communicating (he was recently chastised for not including retirees in a letter to the UM "family"). He has hired a Constituent Communications Leader. The administration will inventory who needs to be contacted, interests, etc. As retirees, we need to communicate to the administration what we need.

Wolfe: There was a smooth start to the semester even though enrollment was up 2% (1,500 more students); freshmen were up 6%; 35% of freshmen are from out of state (need to attract more business to state as projected number of high school graduates is a continual decrease); total undergrad population is up, retention from Freshmen to Sophomore is good; graduation rate is good. In April, after first expecting a 12% reduction in state funds, UM was looking at a probable 7.8% decrease (\$30M) but the House and Senate improved higher education funding which took it back to flat. Even though Governor Nixon withheld 1% as usual, UM still got \$26M back. It was put into scholarships, student services, more faculty to improve the faculty/student ratio, faculty salaries, maintenance and repair (more than \$1B needed).

The Federal election in November will have an effect, and end of year federal sequestration will affect higher education.

Garin suggested this would be a good time for a bond issue to cover some of the UM needs. Wolfe said they were having a conversation regarding a state and university match (50:50) regarding a bond issue. UM President Wolfe is pushing for a bond issue for higher education.

The chair of the meeting, Jo Behymer, asked Fred Wilke to talk about a possible pension increase and the formula used in the past. Wilke asked Wolfe if he thought retirees should be considered for pension increases. Wolfe deferred to VP for Human Resources, Betsy Rodriguez, and Assoc VP Kelly Stuck but Wolfe felt that retirees are owed an explanation regarding the issue. In the past, a report was generated annually by an actuary hired by the UM showing what should be the pension increase based on a formula but no reports have been produced in recent years. UM projects large pension costs over the next 3-5 years so there is no prospect of increases during this period. Wilke understands that but would like to see the report so "we know where we are and you know where we are".

Rodriguez replied that there is a cost to produce the report so we won't do it now.

Behymer asked about future legislation. Wolfe is proposing a science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) initiative to put more dollars into education and for teachers for K-12. Campus buildings most needed are in the physical sciences, engineering, and medicine. He discussed Caring for Missourians phase 1 which is \$40M to produce more care providers. Phase 2 is a demand for more which would pay for 30 more seats for doctors at the med school.

Wolfe mentioned the cigarette tax proposal on the November ballot which would provide for \$300M of increased revenue, 50% of which goes to K-12, 20% to preventive health and 30% to higher education. Last year, state funding for UM was \$400M. Wolfe said there is a never-ending educational process for state legislators because of turnover.

Wolfe: In the future, we will be forced to make difficult tradeoffs. Health care reform means a huge expense that will cost the University millions of dollars. We need to influence the state agenda in a more meaningful way. The university community will "touch" 1.5M Missourians each year including students, clinics, etc. We need to be more vocal about our impact.

Assoc VP for Human Resources, Kelly Stuck spoke. For active employees, 1,000 will be able to meet with a financial advisor (two from Fidelity, one from TIAA). Financial counseling is open to retirees who are still having salary deferred.

Stuck: Regarding health, the national increase is 9%/yr for medical; the increase for UM retirees is 11%. Thus, there will be an increase of 8-12% in health care premiums next year. Approximately 58% of UM retirees take the UM retiree health care. Only 19% of employers offer a post employment health care benefit. About 2,000 UM people take long term health care (LT). After many attempts to find a decent UM LT care program, Stuck suggests that they can do no better than you can as an individual. Thus, the UM LT health care plan will be phased out. Some good news is no increase in premiums for voluntary programs, namely dental, AD&D, and vision.

Stuck: Currently UM budgets 7.5% of salaries and wages to the Retirement Pool and there is the 1.3% contribution from employees. Stuck projects that the Stabilization Fund will be depleted by 2017 because of projected needs to maintain the Retirement Pool at 100%. (Note by Garin: Since 1996, actual contributions to the Retirement Pool never exceeded 9%. For the next 5 years, projected contributions are at least 10% and increase to 13% by 2017.)

Ken Hutchinson asked about the effect of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on UM. Stuck responded that we needed to add 600 new dependents (age 26 rule) and UM covers 73% of the cost. There is a 30 hour rule in ACA to cover part-time individuals so 800 more people may be covered. There will probably be a Federal exchange

for Missouri in 2014 (a marketplace where individuals can compare policies and premiums and buy insurance, although a state exchange is possible). Benefit eligibility is \$50,000 or less/yr income; there is also a category for \$25,000 or less/yr. Stuck expects that there will be no impact on retirees.

Coordinating Board Endorses Tobacco Tax

At its September 5 meeting, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) passed a resolution in support of Proposition B, an initiative to raise taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products. The Proposition will appear on the November 6th ballot and would raise Missouri's tobacco tax to 90 cents per pack from its current 17 cents. Missouri's tobacco tax is currently the lowest in the nation.

Interesting statistics regarding the 6385 retirees in the UM system.

By David Garin

- 3,919 retirees are academic and administrative with an average age at retirement of 64.0.
- 2,466 retirees are clerical and service and started their retirement at an average age of 62.7.
- There are 38 retirees aged 95 or older.
- Total contribution requirements to the UM retirement pool was \$81.3M in 2010 (8.3% of payroll) but increased to \$104.7M in 2011 (10.15% of payroll). Projected contributions (UM + employee) are 12.34% of payroll for 2014 and 13.0% by 2017. Each percent is approx. \$10M.
- By comparison, the Missouri State employees Retirement System (MOSERS), which covers 51,000 state workers (legislators, judges and other state employees) and retirees (37,300), will require larger state contributions in the future. The required state contribution for MOSERS will go from 14.45% to 16.95% of payroll.
- Pharmacy costs for UM retirees average \$191/mo per member but only \$57/mo for active employees.

Medicare

Don't forget that Open Enrollment begins and ends earlier this year--October 15-December 7.

UMSL Retirees Association Board meeting in September.

By David Garin

Board members discussed the cost of the forthcoming (Dec 4) holiday lunch at Glen Echo CC. Ticket cost was set at \$20 with any additional costs (including mailing of invitations) to be covered by the association. UM President Wolfe and his wife will be invited to attend.

The board was asked to have retirees included in the UMSL Charitable Giving campaign. Since we have been seeking to be included in the university "family" in all matters, we voted to have retirees included in the mailing, at no cost to our organization.

Three of our board members serve on a Jubilee Committee (Barton, Ganz, Garin) so we discussed possible roles for retirees in the 2013 celebration.

The concept of an Emeritus College was raised. UMKC retirees are already exploring that possibility.

The detailed minutes of this September board meeting will not be posted on the webpage until approved by the board members later in the year.

Minutes of the March 2012 UMSL Retirees Association board meeting were approved and will appear on the website (www.umsl.edu/retirees).

From Golf Balls to Hallowed Hall 50th Anniversary

By David Ganz

The website www.umsl.edu/services/library/archives/ offers a streaming video of campus history, once on the website, go to Campus History and then select the streaming video.

Also, be sure to hold the evening of **February 1st** for the **Jubilee Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration** to be held in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. There will be a photo museum of the past 50 years, a program emceed by **Frank Cusumano** (BA, communication '84), a short video summarizing the development of the campus, entertainment by "chief amazement officer" **Shep Hyken** (BA communication '82), and a champagne/dessert reception featuring the music of the **Fabulous Motown Review** and fireworks. ***This will be a ticketed event—but the tickets will be free*** and will be available after the first of the year. We hope for a great turnout from retirees!

Do you want to get involved in the 50th Anniversary celebration? Do you have a story or photos to share? Contact Dave Ganz (314) 863-3799 ganz@umsl.edu

Holiday Matinees at the Touhill Performing Arts Center

website: Touhill.org

By Harry Gaffney

UMSL Retirees receive discounts on select performances at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Bring a valid UMSL Retirees Association Membership card to the ticket office to purchase tickets for up to 50% off General Public Price. Quantities are limited.

For those of us who prefer daytime driving, there are several performances at the Touhill Performing Arts Center that have afternoon matinees.

December 7-9

The Ambassadors of Harmony: Sounds of the Season. Hear the chorus fill the Touhill with songs of the holidays. In addition to evening performances, there are matinees at 2:00 pm on December 8 and December 9

December 14-23

The Nutcracker, presented by the St. Louis Ballet. Matinees are at 2:30 pm on December 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, and 23.

December 15-16 12:30 pm

Sugar Plum Fairy Luncheon, presented by the St. Louis Ballet. Arrive early to meet the cast at lunch.

There are several free non-ticketed holiday concerts, two are:

December 2 3:00p.m.

UMSL's Jazz for the Holidays. The Jazz concert features combined sound of UMSL's Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Point and the University Orchestra

December 10 7:30p.m.

University Classical Holiday Concert. The Classical Holiday Concert offers a mixed presentation by UMSL's choirs and orchestras.

To be added to the Touhill's mailing list, visit the website and complete the contact information form. Then you will receive notices about events, recently announced performances and other special offers only available to e-listers.

For ticket information, call the box office at 314-516-4949 or toll free at 866-516-4949.

Box Office hours:

Monday and Thursday: 10 a.m. - 7p.m.

Tues, Wed, Fri: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

And, at least two hours prior to ticketed performances.

Questions? Please call (314) 516-4100

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Holiday Lunch and Meeting

Your board has scheduled our holiday lunch for December 4th at the Glen Echo Country Club. A detailed, formal invitation will be sent to you shortly. Please reserve the date.

Extend a welcome hand and invite a non-member retiree to the luncheon.

Memoriam

We recently lost two members of the UMSL community: **Robert Calsyn**, professor emeritus of psychology died September 21, 2012.

Randa Manassa Schneider, staff member in the Chemistry Department, died September 27, 2012.

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## **A Note about Sending the Newsletter via email:**

We emailed this newsletter to all association members for whom we have an email address as a cost-cutting measure. In the past, we only emailed it to those who requested to receive the newsletter electronically. However, if you wish to receive a hard copy, please email Sharon Davis (sldavis63379@charter.net) who will mail one to you; please include your name and mailing address in the request and make your request no later than November 19, 2012.

University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Retirees Association

60 J. C. Penney Building/Conference Center  
One University Blvd  
St. Louis MO 63121

Mark your calendar  
December 4, 2012  
Holiday Luncheon  
Glen Echo Country Club