

University of Missouri-St. Louis Retirees Association Newsletter

Volume 31
Spring 2014

Greetings from the President

Dear Fellow Retirees,

This will be my last newsletter greeting to you as President of the board of our organization. It has been my pleasure to serve for many years in that capacity and especially enjoyable during the past jubilee year for UMSL. I encourage each of you to consider becoming a board member and/or contributing your knowledge and experience to our organization. Our next elections will be June 6.

This year, the board is recommending a dramatic change in our constitution and bylaws. Our goal is to get more retirees involved in activities and governance. Please consider the recommended C&BL changes and give us your suggestions and, hopefully, your approval.

Dramatic changes will probably occur in the retiree benefits for future retirees. Those of us already retired should see recommended changes in our health benefits by 2018. These changes should be positive for most retirees and offer additional choices. Do not expect cost of living adjustments to our defined benefit retirement stipends for the next few years.

Retirees are an integral part of the University of Missouri and, in addition to being the driving force to develop our campus in its early years, we continue to contribute to its improvement. That is the factual message your organization continues to promote.

I hope to see you at future retirees' events.

Best wishes,

David L. Garin

President of the Board

UMSL Retirees Association

2014-2015 Annual Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are due by June 1, 2014 for 2014-2015. Mail check payable to the UMSL Retirees Association in the amount of the applicable membership fee and a completed Membership Application and Directory Information form (a form is enclosed with this mailing) to Steven Spaner, UMSL-RA Treasurer, 17170 Deer Mountain Rd., Marthasville MO 63357-2092.

Directory Information

By Sharon L. Davis

Quite often our association and or system-wide send information to retirees via email; unfortunately, many of these emails are bounced because retirees have changed their email addresses and forgot to notify us. If you are currently a Lifetime member of the UMSL Retirees Association (no dues required), please complete the name and email information on the enclosed Membership Application and Directory Information form and return it to Sharon L. Davis, UMSL RA Board Member, 83 Sunset View Ct., Saint Peters MO 63376.

Highlights of the Board Meeting, March 28, 2014

Reported by David Garin

In attendance: David Garin, Dave Ganz, Steve Spaner, Shirley Martin, Sharon Davis, Nancy Forbes, Harry Gaffney, and Cindy Vantine.

We decided to invite UM President Tim Wolfe to our June luncheon. If he is unable to attend, we will invite Vice President Betsy Rodriguez..

Sharon Davis asked if we should archive our documents. Sharon has organized them in chronological order and placed the information in binders. Vantine suggested that they go to Linda Belford in the Library. It was moved by Spaner and seconded by Ganz that our documents be archived in the UMSL library. Motion passed.

Garin suggested a program for faculty and staff who may be contemplating retirement. It could be called "So you are thinking about retirement?" and would be an informal panel discussion where several retirees could present their own anxieties and expected benefits regarding retirement and the outcome of their decisions. Considerations such as decrease in income, effect of social security, post-employment health, use of free time can be included with an extensive question/answer period. Gaffney suggested coordinating it with Human Resources, who could provide current, specific data. Martin and Garin volunteered to be on the panel.

The motion that was tabled at our October 2013 board meeting was taken off the table by Spaner. It reads: "Vice President. The vice president shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President. The vice president shall be responsible for membership services: recruitment, maintenance of a current membership directory, communications with members (e.g., newsletters), and events for members. Any committees or individual members assisting or assigned to these duties shall report to the vice president."

Davis pointed out that it is a lot of work for one person. Ganz suggested creating a position like Membership Coordinator. Spaner said that the vice president can ask board members to be on a committee. Martin said it would be hard to find someone to run for the position of Membership Coordinator. Gaffney suggested that the committee could be assigned to two people from the board and some outside members. Ganz reiterated that we need more people involved, suggesting a separate membership committee, a communications committee, and an events committee. Gaffney agreed that the standing committee idea would be beneficial. Spaner suggested that the chair of each committee should be a board member. Garin suggested that each board member (other than Officers) should be a member of at least one committee. This would require a Constitution/Bylaws change. In addition, it was felt that we should consider changing our system to having the President of the Board be elected as a six year commitment: 2 years as President-elect (rather than as vice president), followed by two years as President, followed by two years as Past President. Garin pointed out that other UM retiree associations do it as a three year commitment with only one year in each of the three categories. Spaner volunteered to write a draft for the Constitution/Bylaws and make it available in time for board discussion no later than late April/early May. If approved by the board, we would attempt to send it to members at least 21 days prior to the June 6 meeting where it could be approved by the membership.

Treasurer Spaner reported that as of March 28, 2014, our cash balance was \$5,437.01.

In the absence of the Secretary, minutes were taken by David Garin.

Report from the UM Retirees Associations Leadership Committee Meeting with UM President Tim Wolfe, Columbia, MO; April 29, 2014

By David Garin

Sharon Davis, David Garin and Fred Wilke represented UMSL at the four-campus meeting of retirees' associations in Columbia, MO. Melanie Barger, Manager of constituency communications for the UM System discussed the first e-newsletter sent by the system. Several suggestions for improvement were mentioned.

Kansas City reported that their new Emeritus College now has a dean (Bebe Collins) and remodeled space and will open this fall.

Rolla reported that with 141 paid members their April lunch had 101 attendees.

In a discussion of the structure of the retirees' association on the various campuses, we learned that the president of the board of Rolla's retirees association has a six-year commitment (2 years each as president-elect, president, and past-president) and the position is alternated between faculty and staff. The MU retirees association used to have the same type of board president commitment but changed it to 3 years (one year in each position).

An extensive discussion about retiree COLA (cost of living adjustment) ensued with pertinent data and information being provided by several representatives. In the conversation prior to our meeting with UM President Tim Wolfe, we decided to ask Wolfe if he was aware of prior commitments regarding the COLA. Fred Wilke posed the question. Wolfe responded by saying that his present concern was protecting the benefits retirees already have, not the COLA. There is an affordability challenge regarding the COLA and different interpretations of its history. Wilke pointed out that without including a discussion of COLA, retirees are not part of the budget process. Wolfe then asked for ideas. He later mentioned a possible opportunity to trade, e.g., health benefits vs COLA. Wolfe also cited statistics regarding the increase in student FTE, the decrease in appropriations per student, deferred maintenance, and low faculty salaries. Wolfe said, in addition, he has to deal with unfunded liabilities of approximately \$1B. In response to a question from Garin regarding anticipated funding for UM from the Missouri legislature, Wolfe said he felt that UM would obtain favorable results, since there are more UM programs and initiatives that appear to be high priorities for funding.

Renetta Gallup and Rita Bowie (UM system) presented information about the UM System Total Rewards program. The information is available online at www.umsystem.edu/totalrewards/reimagining and comments can be sent to reimagining@umsystem.edu.

Current retirees should expect no major changes in medical for 2015.

Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon

The 2014 Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting will be held on June 6, 2014 starting at 11:30am with a reception, lunch at Noon and the annual meeting and election at 12:45 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center Lobby. Parking in Lots A & B or West Garage. Invitations will be mailed soon, please remember to R.S.V.P. to (314) 516-5789. Extend a welcome and invite a non-member retiree.

Proposed Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

At the UMSL RA board meeting in March, we voted to alter the term and title of two board officer positions. Instead of electing a President and Vice President, every two years, we would elect an individual for a three-year term. The first year that person would serve as president-elect, the second year president, the third year past-president. The position of president-elect would replace the current position of vice president. This would require an election each year for the incoming president-elect. In addition, we voted that the offices of secretary and treasurer be designated as one-year positions.

There will be three standing committees established to perform the functions of membership services. These changes are clearly shown in side-by-side documents, which are enclosed.

Comments on these proposed changes can be sent to any and all of the board members. These proposed changes will be presented to the membership for a vote at the June 6 business meeting and luncheon. If passed as presented, the board officer positions will go into effect with the Spring 2015 election. The new standing committees may go into effect immediately. Enclosed is a copy of the current Constitution and By-Laws with proposed amendments noted.

According to Article VIII of our constitution, "the constitution may be amended by a majority of those regular members attending a duly called meeting, provided all regular members have been notified of the

proposed amendment at least 21 days in advance". This publication constitutes such notification. (Email notification of this does not meet the requirement of notification.)

Report from the Nominating Committee

By Shirley Martin

At the June lunch and business meeting, elections will be held for: President, Vice President, and three (3) board positions; nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to voting.

In Memoriam

Since our last newsletter, we have recorded the passing of several retirees **Clarice Miller** (December 2), **Joy Whitener** (February 7), **Wilfred Sorrell** (February 7); **Jan Frantzen** (March 10) and **Earle L. Hunter** (April 27).

University of Missouri-St. Louis Retirees Association 2013-2014

Officers

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