

UMSL Retiree Association

Minutes of the December 5, 2018 General Meeting

- I. The meeting was called to order by Debbie Kettler at 1:10 p.m. Debbie introduced our guest, Paul Herring, the new Vice Chancellor for Advancement. The minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were then approved as distributed.
- II. A visitor from the North Pole (Zuleyma Tang-Martinez as Rudolph) made an appearance to encourage those attending but not members of the Retiree Association to join the Association. She distributed membership forms.
- III. Chancellor Tom George addressed the group and began with an announcement regarding an award for retirees. Clark Hickman and Debbie Kettler had brought this concept back from a meeting at Mizzou with the campuses retirees associations. It will be given annually at the State of the University Address at the end of September to a retired faculty member and retired staff member recommended by the Retiree Association.

The Chancellor reported that enrollment was stable. Retention still presents a challenge as many students struggle with financial issues. Athletes do well, both in their sport and academically. Over 3,100 degrees were awarded last year, including the 100,000th graduate, representing 114,000 degrees as many individuals earn multiple degrees from UMSL.

Grants had also increased from \$16 million to \$24 million. The campus might hit \$33 million in the coming year. Philanthropy is strong, the budget has been stabilized, and the campus will have a \$38 million reserve.

The Chancellor mentioned several academic areas deserving recognition, including Criminal Justice, the improvements in Benton and Stadler Halls to promote science learning. The campus strategic plan has been completed. Last but not least, unofficially the campus has been re-accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The campus passed with flying colors and no deficiencies were identified.

- IV. Debbie Kettler also addressed the new award for faculty and staff retirees. She indicated that a committee of six will invite nominations after the first of the year and will hope to have the first two honorees identified by the end of the spring semester and recognized next September. Debbie stressed that a goal of the award is to recognize retirees for volunteerism. Many retirees are volunteering all over the St. Louis area and we want to highlight their activities.

Debbie mentioned upcoming programs, including the program on Alzheimers in the spring and a visit to Cahokia Mounds in the fall.

It was announced that Mark Pope will head up an electronic, semiannual newsletter to go to all members on a regular basis. It is hoped that one highlight will be retirees who volunteer at various organizations around the St. Louis area.

Debbie thanked Kathy Falcon and the Human Resources Department for their support of the Retirees Association.

- V. Chuck Korr reported that the committee of Joe Martinich, Sandy MacLean, Mark Burkholder, and Cindy Vantine, chaired by Chuck Korr, will present nominations for positions in the Retirees Association at the spring luncheon. Members having a nomination or wishing to be nominated should contact one of the committee members.
- VI. Debbie adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Haywood