

**UMSL Retirees Association**  
**Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors**  
**Glen Echo Country Club**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 2024**

**Present:** Tom Eyssell, Clark Hickman, Melissa Hattman, Sue Baber, Dave Ganz, Helene Sherman, Mimi Duncan, Debbie Kettler, and Cindy Vantine

**Ex-Officio Present:** Dave Garin      **Ex-Officio Absent:** Lol Barton

**Absent:** Connie Jeffries, Steve Spaner

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Eyssell at 10:05 am.

General Announcements:

1. Pursuant to previous questions, Tom Eyssell noted that the UMSLRA is a “nonprofit association” from the viewpoint of the state. It is not a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4), which are US Treasury classifications. It is to our advantage to retain our current status.
2. Mary Bosnick announced:
  - a. Jennifer Jezek-Taussig has been promoted to Executive Director of the Alumni Association.
  - b. The UMSL Retirees Association is no longer an “affinity group” within the Alumni Association but is now a “Partner” with the Alumni Association. This is merely an internal change of classification within the Alumni organization. Mary Bosnick will continue to be our liaison with the Alumni Association and both administrative and financial support for the UMSLRA remain unchanged.
  - c. Shelly Barry has been hired as support staff for Mary Bosnick.
3. The first week of October is the deadline for sending Sue Baber articles for the fall newsletter.
4. Tom Eyssell reminded the Board to be on guard against spoofing emails—emails which ask officers or Board members to purchase gift cards or take other actions on his behalf. These requests/emails are never legitimate and should be ignored. They are recognized by examining the email address from which they originate.
5. The president of the UMSLRA has begun holding Zoom conferences with the RA presidents of the other UM campuses.
6. Tom Eyssell has created an *ad hoc* UMSL RA Benefits Committee, including himself, David Garin, and Helene Sherman. The Board was presented with the current subsidy structure of the Basic and Enhanced UM Medicare Advantage plans offered through UnitedHealth.
7. Tom Eyssell’s three priorities this year are: a) Advocating for UMSL Retiree Benefits; b) Emphasizing UMSLRA Membership and Recruiting; and c) Increasing Visibility of the RA.
8. Next Board Meeting: **Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 10:00 am** at Glen Echo Country Club.

#### Events:

1. The first of a new breakfast series will be held **Wednesday, September 18, 2024** in 101 Woods Hall from 9-10 am. The topic is “Medicare 101 and How to Analyze Medicare Advantage Programs.” All UMSLRA members and active pre-retirees are invited. There is no cost.
2. The Holiday Luncheon will be **Friday, December 13, 2024** at Glen Echo Country Club.
3. The UM System Virtual Town Hall Meeting will be on **October 9**. The topic will be retiree benefits.
4. This year’s UMSLRA Fall Event will be a Sunday brunch at Chandler Hill Winery on **Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**.

#### Budget:

Treasurer Steve Spaner provided a written budget showing a balance of \$14,267.58. There was no other discussion of the budget in the absence of the Treasurer.

#### Membership:

1. Mimi Duncan is culling a list of Emeritus faculty and staff for recruiting purposes.
2. The online UMSLRA Membership application form will now remain open year-round.
3. The Membership Committee will be reaching out to non-renewed members.
4. The Membership Committee will be exploring broader avenues of membership recruitment including pre-retirees (active staff and faculty 55 years of age and older), adjunct faculty, and former employees now retired but may have retired elsewhere.

#### Nominating Committee:

Helene Sherman and Melissa Hattman agreed to work together to create a document clarifying the nomination process for UMSLRA officers and Board members. This document will come to the Board for discussion at a future meeting.

#### MOTIONS:

Motion #1: To provide free initial membership to any UMSL retiree, regardless of when they retired, given that (a) they have not previously been a member of the UMSLRA and (b) the “free period” will run from the day they apply to the final day of the current membership period.

PASSED unanimously

Motion #2: To open membership in the UMSL RA to UMSL pre-retirees (age 55+) and to UMSL adjunct faculty.

PASSED unanimously

Motion #3: That the Spring Business Luncheon will remain free for UMSLRA Members, but a \$35 charge will be made for guests/spouses. (Note that for the December Holiday Luncheon, all attendees pay \$35).

PASSED: 8-1