

**University of Missouri-St. Louis
Retiree's Association Meeting**

6 June 2017

J.C. Penney Summit Lounge
12:00 Noon

Lol Barton, president of the UMSL Retiree Association called the meeting to order.

Chancellor's Report (Dr. Tom George, UMSL Chancellor)

2016-2017 was a year of challenges and rewards, mostly rewards:

- Kristin Sobolik became Provost and VC for Academic Affairs on 1 May 2017.
- Rick Baniak became Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, and Chief Financial Officer

Set several retention records:

- 80% of freshmen returned for the sophomore year
- 78% of students returned
- 58% graduation rate (up from low 40's in previous years)
- 3200 degrees awarded in AY 2017—a record.

UMSL has the 4th best starting salary among state institutions at \$44,000/year.

Enrollment: 11,000 degree-seeking students, plus 6,000 Advanced Credit students for a total enrollment of 17,000.

St. Louis Public Radio (KWMU-FM) going “gangbusters” and now has more listeners in the critical morning (9-11 am) timeslot of any station in St. Louis, including KMOX.

UMSL's Department of Military Science is nationally recognized for service to veterans.

UMSL has partnered with Ameren-Accelerator at Cortex, who is investing \$1 million to help with start-ups.

UMSL is now in good financial shape ending FY 2017 with a balanced budget, and set up to also end FY 2018 next year with a balanced budget. Preliminary projections for FY 2019 forecast a modest budget surplus. As such, UMSL is the only campus in the system offering merit raises this year.

Challenges:

- Costs of changes and consolidations.
- Maintenance and repairs have been short-changed in recent years.
- Faculty size is smaller.
- “We can't be all things to all people.”

Guest Speaker: Eric Rosenhauer (Assistant Vice President, Human Resources, UM System)

Mr. Rosenhauer gave a brief overview of pension and benefits issues from the System level:

- UMSL's budget work is considered a benchmark and model for other UM campuses.
- Pension plan: UM's pension plan is 86% funded, about \$500 million short of being fully funded. This is good as it is up from the low 80's a few years ago. Compare to Illinois, which is 40-45% funded.
- Retiree health plan will change on 1 January 2018 for those retiring after that date. This change does not affect those already retired on 1 January.
- Medicare Advantage went smoothly with positive feedback so far.

- The System Benefits Office is down to 43 full time employees, from 60 a year ago. There are 10 employees dedicated to answer retiree phone calls. During open enrollment, the office receives about 1,500 calls per day so it may require a call-back to get through.
- The Total Rewards website is being re-vamped for greater emphasis towards Retirees and Financial Wellness (now it's geared toward actively-working employees). These changes coming in a couple of months—check it out.
- System has an RFP out for Dental and Vision insurance, required every three years. Mr. Rosenhauer does not anticipate a change for dental insurance, but the System is looking strongly at a new, more enhanced, vision policy.
- Eric Rosenhauer invited anyone in attendance to reach out to him directly for questions, or if they are having trouble connecting via phone to the benefits office. His email is rosenhauere@umsystem.edu, and his phone is (573)-882-0067.

Treasurer's Report (Steve Spaner, Association Treasurer)

The Association began the year with a balance of \$6,701.75 and the current balance is \$6,607.43.

New membership cards are in that convey the correct benefits of membership.

The Holiday Luncheon (most recently at Glen Echo) is subsidized, and the Board is investigating whether that can continue at current levels. If not, options include a different venue or a different fee.

[See Treasurer's Report]

Business Meeting (Lol Barton, Association Outgoing President)

The Retiree Association has three standing committees: Membership, Communications, and Planning and Events. Each committee is interested in having retirees participate. Please contact incoming president, Chuck Korr, or Lol Barton if interested.

Thanked officers and Board Members rotating off after this meeting: Linda Royal, Mary Ellen Heckel, and Sandy McLean. Special thanks were given to Cindy Vantine, University Events Coordinator, for her continued dedication and service to the Retiree Association.

Election of Officers and Board Members for 2017-2018. The following individuals were elected to their respective terms unanimously:

Officers:

- President-elect: Deborah Kettler
- Secretary: Clark Hickman
- Treasurer: Steve Spaner

Board Members:

- Joseph Martinich
- David Ganz
- Mark Burkholder

University Events:

- Cindy Vantine (ex-officio)

Planning & Events Committee (Wendell Smith, Chair)

Two retiree events were held this year:

- About 15 participants participated in a holiday train show at the Missouri Department of Transportation in December 2016.
- About 30 participants participated in a seminar on Alzheimer's Disease this past spring.

Two activities are in planning stages for fall 2017:

- Wine tasting and fall foliage tour, organized by Grace Kennedy in consultation with Steve Spaner, who lives in the Missouri Wine Country.
- A lecture by former Chancellor Blanche Touhill on the history of the UMSL campus.

If members have other ideas for events, please let Wendell Smith know.

Old Business

The UMSL Retiree Association is setting up a task force to get an accurate list of UMSL retirees. This has been a challenge, and is not as easy as one would think. It is a continuing effort.

2017-2018 (Charles Korr, Retirees Association Incoming President)

Thanked predecessors and outgoing officers and Board members for their service.

Invited retirees to reach out to him with concerns and ideas—especially as they might relate to System issues regarding benefits

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Clark J. Hickman
Secretary