

## UMSL Retirees Association Board Meeting Minutes 2012 March 9

Present: David Garin, Dave Ganz, Steve Spaner, Shirley Martin, Gary Burger, Larry Friedman, Sharon Davis, Harry Gaffney; Mary Banis; Cindy Vantine

Secretary Spaner missed the first half of the meeting so minutes were taken by David Garin until his arrival.

**2012 HEALTH INSURANCE:** Garin began the meeting by bringing up the issue of the current medical insurance program for retirees. For 2012, the major change was a separate “network” and “non-network” path for services. The two programs each have separate deductibles and different maximum out of pocket expenditures. Thus, one may need to pay both out of pocket costs which are a huge difference from 2011. This difference was brought to Garin’s attention by two separate retirees who had experienced difficulties. The information was sent to UM with a request for relief. The problem was noted and will be a major point of discussion with UM personnel at our four campus RA meeting with the new UM president and UM personnel on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Shirley Martin mentioned that she had received a letter from Coventry telling her that she had used an out of system provider in 2011. Other people received the same letter. Larry Friedman mentioned that he had difficulty with the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) forms he receives. Garin said he would bring that up at the meeting with the request to provide a simpler version or a one page description of how the amounts are calculated.

**UMSL-RA AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATUS:** Next, Garin brought up the issue of whether UMSL-RA should apply for nonprofit status. Our finances would be kept by the University. After some discussion, it was felt that the benefits might not be worth the change. Although more people might donate, it is possible to donate to the UMSL and request that the donation go toward RA expenses, now. Also, the RA could not be subsidized for meals or other activities. Garin said that he would check into this further especially with UMKC’s RA which decided to go nonprofit.

**2012 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON:** The holiday lunch was next on the agenda. Several board members said they preferred to return to Glen Echo Country Club even though the cost would probably be in the area of \$22. Although we charged members \$17.50 in 2011, the feeling was that \$20 for the GECC lunch would be acceptable to the members. Cindy Vantine and Dave Ganz will check on dates and menus and report back by the June 5<sup>th</sup> business meeting.

**NEWSLETTER:** The next newsletter will be sent in April. Garin suggested that all submissions should be sent to Sharon Davis by April 5<sup>th</sup> (one day after the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Columbia). A plea was made for more articles. Ganz noted that the UMKC-RA newsletter (online) is almost 20 pages. Cindy suggested articles about the new UM President, on the nominating committee advertising the slate of candidates, on the June 5<sup>th</sup> lunch, lunch bunch activity, and possibly an article for the Jubilee which is beginning in Feb 2013. The newsletter might also include an article on the book exchange, obituaries and relevant web addresses. Larry Friedman moved that this Spring newsletter be mailed to all retirees, not just those who are RA members. Seconded by Shirley Martin and passed after some discussion. Davis and Garin thought the cost would be at least \$500-600.

ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON/MEETING: Shirley Martin, chair of the nominating committee, requested names to consider for the 5 positions which will be voted upon at the business meeting/lunch on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Garin requested that Chancellor George give an update as he has in the past. Vantine suggested we invite the new UM President. Garin agreed and Vantine suggested that he contact Candy in the Chancellor's office to obtain the proper protocol. Martin suggested that we get reassurances from the new president regarding the benefits funds. Garin rebutted that those funds are in good shape and that RAs need to defend the retiree health benefit. He noted that both issues will probably arise at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Columbia.

TOBACCO TAX: Garin brought up the Tobacco Tax petition which is being supported by most UM departments and personnel. Garin asked for a motion for the UMSL-RA to support and promote the tobacco tax petition to raise additional state funds for higher education. Spaner moved and Burger seconded the motion. Martin warned that other education interests would be vying for the funds so higher ed will have to be vocal. Davis urged care in the wording of the petition to avoid appropriations reduction-in-kind that the legislature has implemented in the past. The motion passed with one abstention. Garin mentioned that the issue will come up at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Columbia.

The minutes of the Sept 19, 2011 board meeting were presented. No additions, corrections or deletions were suggested. Minutes were accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted with thanks to David Garin,  
Steven D. Spaner, secretary  
UMSL-Retirees Association

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**(Years left in term noted in parentheses )**

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