

UMSL Retirees Association Board Meeting Minutes: 2011 April 8

Board Officers and Members Present: president David Garin; vice-president David Ganz; secretary Steven Spaner; treasurer Rick Blanton; members Grace Kennedy, Fred Wilke, Sharon Davis, Don Phares; campus liason Cindy Vantine.

Retirement Program Report

President Garin opened the meeting at 10:00 AM by calling on member Fred Wilke to report on proposed changes to UM retirement program. Fred reported that he would be going from our Board meeting to a Telepresence committee meeting of the UM System Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee. The proposal being offered and discussed at that meeting was a ½ Defined Benefits ½ Defined Contribution retirement program. Right now UM contributes 7% but in the immediate coming years the contribution will increase to 12% before going down to the reduced long term target. Dave Ganz commented that we, retirees, won't be seeing any COLA. Fred added we could even be seeing benefits reductions for retirees because benefits are not part of the employment contract like pension is. Fred noted that the last time a COLA was discussed with Chancellor Thomas George it would have taken less than a 1% budget increase to fund a COLA catch-up for retirees. But, of course this wasn't done.

Garin next noted that he and board representatives Ganz, Wilke, and John Perry will be attending the spring meeting of the UM retiree associations on April 20, 2011. UM Interim President Stephen Owens will be at the meeting to hear from the retiree associations. Garin asked board members what they thought should be brought up at the meeting. Given the status of Owens as an interim officer, no one felt that any action(s) would be taken by him, so no retirement issues were brought up. There was discussion of the previous matter of retiree retention of university email addresses upon retirement. Garin was directed to bring this matter up at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rick Blanton reported that the current balance in the treasury is \$4,018.87.

Nominating Committee

Chair Shirley Martin was absent from the board meeting but sent in a nominating committee report:

“We were not able to find a person to agree to run for the positions of Treasurer or Secretary, however, Steve and Rick agreed to run again, so we can ask for nominations from the floor for those two positions. Then, we have three openings for Board, Sharon Davis, Fred Wilkie and Grace Kennedy. Sharon wants to run again, I sent an email to Fred but have not heard from him, and Grace said she did not want to run again.

The following people have agreed to have their names put on the ballot: Mary Pogue, Harry Gaffney and Chris Graham. So, the ballot should list their names and Sharon and Fred's names and say ‘Vote for Three’.

The nominating Committee, Don Phares, Don Greer, Connie Lacker and I approved this ballot.”

UMSL-RA Newsletter

Garin next asked board member Sharon Davis to introduce a motion she distributed prior to the board meeting.

Motion: Make the next UMSL-RA Newsletter the last newsletter mailed to all UMSL retirees, henceforth only mail the newsletter to UMSL-RA members, and announce this new policy in this next

newsletter with a letter of recruitment for retirees to become members of the UMSL Retirees Association. Motion was seconded by Spaner.

Sharon shared her justification for the motion. Nowhere in the Association Constitution or By-Laws does it state we will mail the Newsletter to all retirees. To print and mail the Newsletter (approximately 700 copies) , as a self-mailer, we spent approximately \$480.00 for each issue. To print and mail the Newsletter to members only (approximately 150 copies), as a self-mailer, we would spend approximately \$112.00 for each issue. The Newsletter should be a “benefit” of membership.

Don Phares asked if it was possible to have a link to the newsletter on the UMSL home page. Cindy Vantine stated that the competition for home page links is fierce and doubted we could ever get such a link placement. It was noted that the UMSL-RA web page on the UMSL web site does have a link to UMSL-RA past newsletters.

Question was called. Motion was passed unanimously.

Ganz distributed a letter that he will submit for publication in the next newsletter that will outline the benefits of UMSL-RA membership and note the newsletter policy distribution change as an incentive to join the UMSL-RA. Ganz asked for board members’ suggestions for edits or corrections. Spaner suggested he send the letter via email to board members for the suggested edits or corrections. He agreed to do so.

Ganz suggested that the next newsletter publish the link to the UMSL-RA newsletter page on the UMSL web site. Sharon said she will do so. Garin said he will prepare a solicitation to be placed in the newsletter for UMSL-RA members to provide their email addresses so he can set up a UMSL-RA list-serve. Sharon stated she will wait until April 20 for submissions to the newsletter before starting the setup and production process.

Ganz noted that the Retirees Directory is a benefit of UMSL-RA membership and questioned what the cost would be to non-members. Sharon said she will cost-out the publication and mailing costs of the directory and add an order form to the next UMSL-RA newsletter since it will be the last one mailed to all UMSL retirees.

Announcements

Cindy announced that the Chancellor’s Report to the Community will be held May 6, 2011 and board members will be receiving invitations soon. Garin announced that the UMSL-RA Annual/Spring Meeting will be held June 9th. He reminded board members that this is the luncheon that the Chancellor hosts so the location will be his choice.

Minutes

Secretary Steve Spaner passed out copies of the minutes of the last board meeting, September 3, 2010, also distributed prior by email attachment, for corrections or additions. No corrections or additions were offered. Garin ruled the MINUTES ACCEPTED.

Garin called for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am

Respectfully submitted,
Steven D. Spaner, secretary
UMSL-Retirees Association