

UMSL Retirees Association Board Meeting Minutes: 2010 September 3

Board Officers and Members Present: David Garin, president; David Ganz, vice-president; Steven Spaner, secretary; Shirley Martin, past-president; Grace Kennedy, Gary Burger.

President Garin opened the meeting at 10:00 AM by calling for corrections or additions to the minutes of the last board meeting, April 23, 2010, as distributed by secretary Spaner by email attachment. No corrections or additions were offered. Garin ruled the MINUTES ACCEPTED.

Next Garin presented a request from board member Sharon Davis who could not attend the meeting. She asked the Board to discuss sponsorship of an investors'/estate planning seminar similar to the one previously held before an RA Holiday Luncheon in December 2009. The seminar would be held in St. Charles this October 2010 and lead by Edward Jones Investors. After discussion by the Board surrounding preferential treatment of one broker over another, the Board decided it would accept an "ad" by a broker of such seminars that would be placed in the UMSL-RA Newsletter. The cost of such an ad would be the cost of postage for mailing the newsletter.

Garin brought up the topic of retirees' benefits packages. He noted that board member Fred Wilke sits on the UM System Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee. This committee will be meeting next month, October 2010. Additionally, the topic of whether UM should change from a Defined Benefits (DB) pension plan to a Defined Contributions (DC) pension plan is back on the table. The UMSL Faculty Senate & University Assembly chair, Mike Murray, has authorized the preparation of a White Paper on the topic and distributed it to the UMSL community. Some retirees received the draft and contributed to it, others did not. A campus meeting to discuss the issue and the White Paper is scheduled for the first week of September. The white paper, if approved, would be sent to the other UM campuses for their approval/interest and the information contained therein would be sent to the administration and the Board of Curators.

RA board members were encouraged to attend. The consensus of several board members was that this was an inevitable change and the RA needs to keep close watch on the planning and transition to protect and promote the interests of present retirees. Nevertheless, the consensus is that any changes in retirees' benefits affected by going from DB to DC or altering the formula for pension benefits will not affect current retirees. Even post-retirement health benefits, which are not guaranteed, are expected to remain relatively stable for current retirees.

It was noted that the White Paper and planned discussion are targeted at the pension plan and not the health benefits packages, which are of prime importance to present retirees. The current status of retirees' health benefits is awaiting the University's analysis of the impact of the recently passed Federal health benefits reforms. Gary Burger cautioned that the RA needs to be ready to jump in full force once the University completes this analysis.

Garin next brought back the topic of the scheduling of the 2010 UMSL-RA Holiday Luncheon. He reported that the available dates are Thursday December 2 and Tuesday December 7. Garin did not have the exact costs for the event if held at the University verses the Glen Echo Country Club. Spaner moved and Ganz seconded the motion to hold the event on December 7 at the Glen Echo CC if the expenses were equal to or less than holding the event on campus. MOTION

PASSED, Burger abstained. [Note: Subsequently, Cindy Vantine has informed Garin that the Chancellor is not available on December 2.]

Finally, Garin turned the board's attention to the list of retirees' contributions prepared by the other UM campuses that he sent out prior to the meeting. He reported that the list of suggestions from each campus was due by May 31st, so UMSL is behind schedule. The retiree association leaders are asking their boards and members for examples of activities that all campus retirees are doing to fund and promote UM. This list will be presented as a summary of retiree contributions to the UM "family" so retirees will have presence and standing when pension increases are considered by the Curators and the legislature.

After some discussion and board member offerings, Garin and Spaner agreed to work on preparing a list immediately after adjournment. It was sent out that afternoon. The final list prepared and submitted by the UMSL-RA is the following:

1. Financial contributions for scholarships, departmental events and university programs
2. In-kind contributions (e.g., books and equipment) to university departments and libraries.
3. Initiate and support scholarships
4. Volunteer hours at performance centers and student centers
5. Volunteer professional services to the university and units
6. Volunteer professional services to state agencies
7. Participate in student recruitment
8. Service on individual university and u-wide committees
9. Service on professional accreditation and review boards
10. Service on community groups and non-profit boards
11. Advising, teaching and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students
12. Directing dissertations and participating on dissertation committees
13. Contributions to research via publication in the professional literature, participation in professional organizations, and grant writing
14. Attending colloquia and seminars at regional universities and corporations
15. Contributions to the popular literature and news media
16. Work with alumni associations to enhance the presence of the university in the community

Some interest was raised as to the dollar amounts contributed by retirees. Garin noted that Ganz has requested a list of financial contributions by retirees over the past few years from the development office for similar purpose. Burger remarked that plans should be made to attach numbers to the consolidated list of retirees' contributions. He strongly urged distribution of the list in the form of a survey to all UM retirees.

Garin called for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am

Respectfully submitted,

Steven D. Spaner, secretary
UMSL-Retirees Association