

Minutes of the UMSL Retirees Association Board Meeting: October 4, 2007

Present: David Garin, president
Steven Spaner, secretary
L. "Sandy" MacLean, treasurer
Larry Friedman
David Ganz
Sharon Davis
Herman Smith
Loy Harvey, Staff

10:00 AM: President Garin passed out a five-item agenda and began discussion with:

Item 1: Speaker for the holiday luncheon. Dave Garin announced that the luncheon will be held on Tuesday December 4, 2007 in the MSC. Points of consideration mentioned regarding a speaker were someone who is able to talk about issues related to the Retirees Association (RA). Dave Ganz suggested retiring Vice President for Human Relations, Ken Hutchinson, because of his vast knowledge and life long advocacy for the employees of UM. All agreed that we would like to invite Ken and his wife to the luncheon, but more as a way to honor him without any obligation to be a speaker. It was suggested that a good speaker for the luncheon might be UMSL RA Board member Fred Wilke because of his long involvement in UM benefits monitoring and negotiations. President Dave Garin will contact Fred about this possibility.

Item 2: Obtain a CD for surplus funds. Dave Garin asked past treasurer, Sharon Davis and present treasurer, Sandy MacLean to present the issue. The present UMSL RA treasury is \$6118.00. In the past, the holiday luncheon has cost the RA around \$1400.00. The attending persons have been charged \$15 if they were members of the UMSL RA and \$20 if they were non-members. Because the luncheon expenses have been increasing it was suggested that the attendance fees be increased. The suggestion was to increase the luncheon fees to \$20 for RA members and \$25 for non-members. Steve Spaner suggested that the members fee apply to the RA member and one guest, each paying the \$20 rate. The Board accepted as the new fee guidelines for the holiday luncheon: \$20 per person for UMSL RA members and one guest and \$25 per person for all other attendees, i.e., non-members. Sharon Davis suggested that \$2000.00 of the treasury should be held in a checking account, presently at the First National Bank in Normandy, the remainder should be invested in a short-term CD. The Board agreed on this guide and directed present treasurer Sandy MacLean to make this investment. The location for purchasing the CD is being left up to the treasurer's discretion.

Item 3: Email privileges for retired faculty and staff. This benefit was presented to the Board last meeting and Steve Spaner was asked to investigate the costs and best way to present this request to the campus administration. Steve reported on his correspondences with Vice Chancellor Jim Tom and the lack of data that his office has on retirees or their status as UMSL.EDU email account holders. Board liaison member Cindy Vantine had

sent an email estimating the number of retirees at 600 or so. New Board member Herm Smith offered several very strong arguments in support of every retiring faculty member being able to retain their umsl.edu email account: when writing letters of recommendation for students, when continuing to perform grant activities, and others. Sandy MacLean also added compelling reasons for letting all retirees, staff and faculty, retain their UM email accounts: to keep contact with a potential advocacy base and benefactor constituency, to use retirees as a recruitment resource for new students, staff, and faculty. Member Dave Ganz commented that this benefit was brought before the Four Campus Retirees Association Committee in the recent past. The discussion there revealed that this was a campus administered policy and that some campuses already granted retention of email accounts and privileges to all retirees. President Dave Garin asked Steve Spaner to contact the other three campus RAs and someone in the System office to try to find out what the policy was on all campuses and what would be needed to make a system-wide policy that all retiring UM employees be offered the opportunity to keep their *.edu email account open and accessible.

Item 4: Priority for future retiree benefits. President Garin noted that last year the campus RAs requested retiring System President Floyd to make a pay adjustment his top priority request to the UM Board of Curators. That request resulted in a 2% pay adjustment that went into effect this past September. However, over President Floyd's tenure the campuses only received a total 6% pay increase and the retirees only saw a total 3% pay adjustment. Dave asked for discussion on what the UMSL RA Board's priority benefit request should be this year. Dave presented an email message from Board member Fred Wilke favoring a pay adjustment request. Members McLean and Spaner recalled the presentation and conversation made by Dave Garin last year in support of holding down health benefit costs and retaining the current level of health benefits. After extended discussion the members present unanimously voted to make maintenance of health benefits and cost containment the top priority for the UMSL Retirees Association.

Item 5: Programs/seminars/forums: Dave Garin discussed his attendance and experience at one of the Planned Giving seminars sponsored by the UMSL Development Office. Sharon Davis noted that from a discussion with Tim Farmer that UM-C was also doing these seminars. Dave asked what other programs/seminars/forums might the retirees be interested in having presented. Sharon Davis requested presentations on wills, living trusts, POD, TOD. Other suggestions were planning financial futures seminars, presentations on Medicare and Social Security options, pros and cons of each option, from UM Benefits personnel and from Social Security Administration personnel. Sharon volunteered to pursue the availability and planning for such events.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Steven D. Spaner, secretary