

**UMSL Retirees Association
Board of Directors Meeting
J.C. Penney Conference Center**

June 7, 2018

Present: Chuck Korr, Lol Barton, Mike Murray, David Garin, Wendell Smith, Steve Spaner, Mark Burkholder, Debbie Kettler, Gloria Leonard, Clark Hickman, Dave Ganz, Joe Martinich, and Hal Harris.

Absent: Zuleyma Tang-Martinez

Secretary's Report:

The Minutes from the December, 2017 Board Meeting held at Glen Echo Country Club were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Steve Spaner provided a report of the current RA finances. A copy of this report is attached to these Minutes. The report was accepted.

Dr. Spaner questioned whether the campus administration is going to continue underwriting a portion of the December holiday luncheon? He provided financial implications to the RA budget for current funding, partial funding and no funding. He asked the incoming officers to clarify this with Kathy Falcon.

President's Report:

President Chuck Korr reported that five members of the Board attending the May 4 System-Wide Retirees Association meeting in Columbia: Chuck Korr, Debbie Kettler, Joe Martinich, Hal Harris, and Clark Hickman.

Joe Martinich reported that there is no real news of the pension-front. He believes the administration is acting conservatively and responsibly in managing the fund. The fund is 83% funded, which is a good rate for a public university pension system. Moreover, the fund is experiencing a 7.2% Rate of Return, which while conservative, is acceptable in managing the fund. In response to continuing fears from retirees about the viability of the pension fund, Dr. Martinich emphasized that all current retirees are safe—that if the fund became insolvent, current retirees would get funds first and there is enough for all retirees during their lifetimes.

Dr. Korr reported that President Choi remains elusive in his use of the term “Flagship.” The president tries to differentiate between a “flagship campus” and a “flagship model” depending on the audience, which Dr. Choi advising us that Columbia was the “flagship campus” of the UM System, but we did not operate by a “flagship model” as other states do. He tried to assert that none of the other three campuses (Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis) were subordinate to Columbia. He brought up the idea that perhaps the Inter-Faculty Council (IFC) representatives at UMSL should meet with the RA Board to carry concerns centrally among all campuses.

Facebook Page:

Clark Hickman reported that there were 73 active members of the Retirees Association Facebook page. He reported that the page was mostly being used to advertise upcoming RA events and that people were responding to such posts with “Likes” and comments indicating their willingness to participate.

Dr. Hickman mentioned that some of the 73 Facebook members to our page were not dues-paying members of the Retirees Association. In the coming year, he is going to audit the membership of the Facebook page and promote formally joining the RA to those not yet dues-paying members.

Activities—Past and Future:

Wendell Smith gave a re-cap of the activities sponsored by the RA during the 2017-2018 year. Participation ranged from 15-32 for the various events and he publicly thanked the Board for helping put together the programs.

The programs sponsored by the RA during the past year included a tour of the Transportation Museum, a presentation by former Chancellor Blanche Touhill, a fall winery tour, a tour of Bellafontaine Cemetery, an exhibit tour at the Missouri History Museum, and an exhibit tour at the Mercantile Library.

Dr. Smith recommended that one option going forward would be to focus on three main activities, such as a winery tour (perhaps making this an annual fall event), a museum tour (such as the new Arch museum), and a spring outdoors activity (such as another cemetery tour). The Board commented that we could even repeat some popular events since people could have another chance to attend.

Dr. Smith indicated that he would be happy to serve on the activities committee again, but cannot chair it due to his travel schedule.

President Korr thanked Wendell Smith for his hard work in developing excellent activities that were well received.

Newsletter and Webpage:

Lol Barton reported that the RA webpage has been completely updated and that the recent RA activities are highlighted.

Dr. Barton volunteered to continue managing the webpage if the Board made him an ex-officio member. This was approved by the Board.

Nominating Committee:

Lol Barton presented the slate of officers and Board members to be elected at the spring general meeting following the Board meeting:

President-elect: Michael Murray

Treasurer: Steve Spaner

Secretary: Gloria Leonard

Board Members: Clark Hickman, Tom Schnell, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor for any of the above positions.

New Business:

Wendell Smith proposed that the RA make a \$125 donation to Bellefontaine Cemetery Association for the excellent tour provided on June 1. The motion was seconded by Lol Barton and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board authorized a Thank You note be sent to Kathy Falcon recognizing her help in transitioning from Cindy Vantine.

The Board asked that sign-up sheets be placed on tables during the spring and winter luncheons for volunteers to sign up for committees.

Announcements:

Wendell Smith mentioned that some retirees may not be fully aware of all the benefits associated with our health insurance policy, such as flu shots, screening benefits, and vaccinations. He suggested we routinely remind members of these benefits through our newsletter.

Debbie Kettler also mentioned that we should remind members to look for mail that looks like junk mail that has the word “Rewards” printed on the envelope. These mailings contain important health insurance benefit information.

Wendell Smith mentioned that retirees can often get a discount of some gym memberships through the Silver Sneakers program.

David Garin mentioned that most of our members are interested in retiree benefits and that we should routinely provide information, programs, and updates on these issues.

Wendell Smith asked if perhaps a representative from the Retirees Association ought to show up at retirement parties and talk to the soon-to-be retiree about the benefits of the RA?

Wendell Smith questioned how the RA might loop some of its activities into established campus activities such as the Monday Noon Series.

Adjourn:

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Addendum 1 to the Minutes:

Through an email voting procedure, conducted June 13-17, 2018, a quorum of the Board voted Dr. Lol Barton an ex-officio Member of the Board as Retirees Association Webmaster.

Addendum 2 to the Minutes:

Due to the resignation of Gloria Leonard as Secretary, the Board voted to appoint Fern Mreen as Secretary, effective June 22, 2018.

Submitted by:

Clark J. Hickman
Secretary

