

## **UMSL Retirees Association**

### **General Meeting Minutes 13 December 2017**

#### **Glen Echo Country Club**

President Chuck Korr called to order a general meeting of the membership as part of the annual Holiday Luncheon at 1:15 pm. There were 81 attendees at this luncheon/meeting.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Steve Spaner provided a written report in his absence.

The RA balance on 6 June 2017 was \$6,607.43. Since that time, we have received \$1,655 in membership payments. Payments were made to Steve Spaner for office supplies (\$115.68), to Wendell Smith for winery tour refreshments (\$19.81) and to Steve Spaner for the Mt. Pleasant winery tour (\$87.98).

The ending balance, as of 13 December 2017 was \$8,039.97. Expenses for the holiday luncheon at Glen Echo have not yet been paid out of this balance.

Steve Spaner reports that there are 387 retirees listed in our directory and that there are 154 lifetime members. Forty-two annual members paid in 2017-2018, while 138 members listed in our directory have not paid. Fifty-three members have died.

#### **Speaker: Provost Kristin Sobolik**

Provost Sobolik filled in for Chancellor George, who was called to a meeting in Jefferson City. She said she has learned a lot about St. Louis in her 7 months here, and was delighted to be able to meet with the Retirees Association. She gave the following report about important activities on the campus:

- There are currently 16,000 students on campus, but of that number, 5,000 are Advanced Credit students. The freshman classes continue to grow, and the average ACT score is the highest ever.
- The campus dedicated a new building: Anheuser-Busch Hall. Now the focus will be to maintenance and repairs of existing buildings, and other infrastructure priorities. Some buildings may be taken "offline."
- There are three Dean searches going on: Ann Taylor was just appointed dean of the College of Education, following a national search. The Provost expects the search for the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences to conclude by the time of the holiday break. She also expects the search for the dean of the Honors College to conclude in January, 2018.

#### **Announcements**

Clark Hickman announced that he would, by the end of the day, create a RA Facebook page. A show of hands indicated that about half of the attendees had a Facebook account. He asked that those people who had Facebook accounts to please "Like" our page, and add friends who are UMSL retirees to the page as well.

As he had done in the Board Meeting, Joe Martinich talked about the meeting of the Board of Curators the previous week. During their meeting, the Curators voted to change the assumed investment rate of the pension plan from 7.75% to 7.2% translating to an increased unfunded liability of \$250 million. We are currently 88% funded and with the new assumed investment rate, we will be about 83% funded. Joe felt that this was a wise move on the part of the Curators, and an indication of very conservative projections and planning.

As he had done in the Board Meeting, Chuck Korr reported on the system meeting of representatives of the four campuses' retirees associations. President Choi is forming a state-wide speaker's bureau consisting of experts among the campuses who want to meet with citizen groups in their area of specialty. He also brought up President Choi's views on whether or not Columbia is the "flagship" campus of the system. At the meeting of the joint RA representatives meeting, he clearly stated that there was no "flagship" in the system—that each campus was a viable, stand-alone entity within the system. However, two weeks later, when meeting with Mizzou RA officers, he referred to Mizzou as "the flagship campus."

### **Recognizing Cindy Vantine**

President Chuck Korr recognized the service Cindy Vantine has made to the campus and, especially, the Retirees Association during her 30+ year association with UMSL. He presented her with flowers and she received a standing ovation from the RA members. Kathy Falcon was introduced to the group as Cindy's replacement.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark J. Hickman, secretary