

UMSL Retirees Association Board Meeting Minutes: 2011 September 19

Present: David Garin, David Ganz, Shirley Martin, Gary Burger, Lawrence Friedman, Sharon Davis, Harry Gaffney, Mary Banis, Cindy Vantine (campus liaison), Fred Wilke (RSB rep).

The meeting was called to order by board president Garin at 10:10 am. In the absence of the secretary, Garin took minutes.

Garin brought up the issue of tax-exempt status of the organization. The UMKC retirees association recently achieved 501c(3) and the advantages were discussed. One drawback has to do with member benefits, for example we could not subsidize luncheons. We currently subsidize the holiday luncheon. After some discussion, it was decided to ask the other retirees associations if they have tax-exempt status and why. We can revisit this issue for 2012.

The tax-exempt issue coincided with a discussion of pricing for the holiday lunch on Dec 6th. Ganz made a motion to keep pricing the same as last year, seconded by Friedman. Davis suggested we wait until we find out costs and vote via email. The Ganz/Friedman motion passed. (Cindy Vantine subsequently sent us data on costs from last year's luncheon which was \$17.50 per person and a charge of \$75 for the bartender.)

Starting with the fall 2011 newsletter, we plan to mail only to members. Vantine asked if we would send a mailing once a year to all retirees. We may do that for the spring luncheon or the spring newsletter. Garin will ask reps from Rolla and Kansas City about their communications with all retirees and member retirees.

Fred Wilke was listed on our current Board roster as Ex-Officio but that was never approved. He will now be listed as the Retirement, Salary and Benefits representative (RSB rep) and continue to be invited to attend our board meetings to provide updates regarding that University-wide committee.

Wilke reported that the U-wide RSB committee has been meeting frequently. The new 2011 university hires are under the old retirement plan. A new plan was thought to go into effect starting with 2012 but Wilke said that the Board of Curators has not voted on it yet. He thinks it may not pass because the costs would be higher. The Board of Curators may discuss the new proposed plan in October. It is a combined defined benefit and defined contribution (DB and DC) with different vesting periods. Potential changes will not affect current retirees but will probably mean no COLA for current retirees in the near future. Wilke thinks the health benefit costs are rising and premiums will increase. He thinks the RIM plan for retirees will not increase significantly.

Davis asked about a date for the newsletter. None has been set but we will probably try to send out the fall newsletter in mid October.

Garin reviewed the agenda for the four campus retirees association meeting scheduled for the next day (9/20/11) in Columbia. Garin said that he would raise the questions of tax-exempt status and communication with retirees and members at that meeting. There were no additional questions posed. Garin said that additional questions could be sent to him via email until this evening.

Vantine asked if there was still a lunch bunch. The Monday Center for Humanities noon program would be good for such meetings and a follow up lunch could be held in the cafeteria or nearby restaurants. Garin asked if anyone was interested in setting this up so that we could advertise it in the fall newsletter.

No volunteers.

The draft minutes of our last board meeting (4/8/2011) were sent via email. Garin suggested that board members review the minutes, send additions, corrections, deletions directly to secretary Steve Spaner and, if no major alterations or need for discussion arose in the next week, the minutes would be considered accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

David Garin

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