

UMSL Retirees Association

Minutes of the April 15, 2020 Board Meeting

Signing into this virtual meeting on Zoom were Michael Murray, Clark Hickman, Kathie Haywood, Steve Spaner, Brenda Shannon-Simms, Dave Ganz, Lol Barton, Helene Sherman, Tom Schnell, Malissa Hattman, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez, and Dave Garin.

- I. **Minutes** of the December 4, 2019 were distributed. No changes were suggested.
- II. The **Holiday Luncheon Financial Report** was submitted by Steve Spaner. The report was accepted and is attached.
- III. Committee Reports
 - a. Planning and Events (Helene Sherman and Tom Schnell) – no report
 - b. Communications (Lol Barton) – The RA web site has been brought up to date and the Newsletter was distributed. Lol indicated that it is best to distribute a PDF version as that keeps the positioning and spacing as intended. It was noted that “blind copy” needs to be used when items are distributed to large groups, both to keep addresses confidential and to avoid unnecessary “reply to all” messages.
 - c. Retirees Awards (Clark Hickman) – The committee is working on the assumption that awarding of the 2020 Retirees Awards will go forward and the \$1,000 accompanying each award will be made. Clark will work with Ericka Webb in mid-May to get out a reminder to nominate and the Nomination Committee will hopefully meet on schedule in July, either in person or virtually.
 - d. Nominating Committee (report given by Clark Hickman for Debbie Kettler) - The committee’s suggested slate for the 2020 Election is:
 - i. President-Elect: Kathie Haywood
 - ii. Secretary: Helene Sherman
 - iii. Treasurer: Steve Spaner
 - iv. Board: Sue Baber Turley, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez, Dave GanzClark Hickman of course moves up to President, Michael Murray to Immediate Past President. Sue Baber Turley would replace Tom Schnell who rotates off the Board, with Dave Ganz and Zuleyma Tang-Martinez standing for re-election. Dave Ganz mentioned that the leadership roster needs to be correct to show 1 year for him instead of 2.
Election Procedures – Because the Spring Luncheon and General Membership meeting is cancelled due to the COVID-19 Social Distancing policies, an alternate means of conducting an election is needed. It was suggested that Ericka send an e-mail from Debbie Kettler to the membership with instruction to reply to her accepting the slate as distributed or nominating a specific person for a specific position. The e-mail would be sent around May 26th and the return deadline

would be June 5th. It was suggested that the instructions appear first in the e-mail. There was a discussion about the fact that nominating someone in this process was not quite the same as a “nomination from the floor” because the membership would not be aware of the nomination when voting. It was decided to send out a preliminary e-mail with the suggested slate and to ask for nominations ahead of the distribution of the official ballot for voting so that nominations “from the floor” could be included on the official ballot. The importance of using the blind copy procedure was discussed again and an additional suggestion was made that when soliciting nominations “from the floor” members be instructed to reply only if they have a nomination.

IV. New Business

- a. Clark introduced the topic of replacing the cancelled June meeting with another. He relayed Debbie Kettler’s suggestion not to have a September meeting. The group held a discussion of pros and cons and the possibility of having an alternate event to keep members engaged. Possibilities included a webinar, perhaps on the pension fund, and a winery event. It was decided that any final decision should be delayed until more is known about how social distancing mandates would be lifted.
- b. System-Wide Retirees – it was reported that our nomination of James Campbell to the committee on benefits was not needed because the nominee needed to be a full-time staff member. Everyone was encouraged to think of possible staff nominees. Mike reported that he attended a virtual town hall meeting for the Columbia campus (in his role of alumnus). Much of discussion was about reclaiming students and any changes to benefits or pensions seemed to be off the table for now. Mike indicated that a virtual town hall is scheduled for the UMSL campus at 11:00 on May 15, 2020. No one had been notified at this point. It appears that there will still be a virtual meeting of the 4-campus retiree representatives on May 6th, organized by Betsy Garrett.

V. Adjournment