

UMSL Retirees Association

Board of Directors Meeting

July 15, 2020 Minutes

Attending: Sue Baber, Lol Barton, Dave Ganz, Melissa Hattman, Kathie Haywood (president-elect), Clark Hickman (president), Mike Murray, Brenda Shannon-Simms, Helene Sherman, Steve Spaner (treasurer), Zuleyma Tang Martinez.

I. Approval of any pending minutes: There were questions about whether or not the April 17 minutes were approved. Kathie and Helene will check the records.

II. Treasurer's Report: Steve Spaner reported that the UMSL RA treasury account balance as of 7/14/2020 is \$12,415.08. The total number of members listed in our directory is 426. Renewal membership is quite a bit lower this year. Clark reported that apparently there are 155 directory listings not paid. We have emails for 107 of those in our directory, home addresses for 35 members and no contact information for the remaining 12 members. Steve suggested we work with the UM System to determine which members are living and to obtain contact information if possible.

III. Committee Reports

1. Communications: Newsletter: Sue Baber, Chair.

Sue encouraged board members to send content for the newsletter in order to increase interest. Future items for newsletters were suggested, such as retirement plans, tours and obituaries. Zuleyma will send a description of her recent NPR interview. Clark will write an email letter to the membership with updated information for his President's Column and also include it on the website. Sue and Lol will work together to include information on the website. Melissa said she and the membership committee would work on content for the fall newsletter and provide Sue a way to set the newsletter up, similar to UM-Columbia's copy. Melissa will review RA photos to be included from recent tours. The newsletter will be posted on our website and a few hard copies will be produced. The RA will produce a packet for new retirees as part of their outgoing experience. The packet would include a letter to new retirees from the RA President cosigned with Chancellor, a brochure of benefits and an RA application to serve as an encouragement to become involved with RA.

2. Planning and Events: Debbie Kettler, Chair

The committee, Debbie, Melissa and Zuleyma, have not yet met. Clark suggested that given the pandemic issues, we would most likely not finalize activity plans until the first of September. Melissa will contact wineries to find out if they are open for a possible activity. At this time the in-person December 11, 2020 annual holiday luncheon at Glen Echo is on our schedule though those plans may be reevaluated. Zuleyma suggested that we might offer a webinar about pensions as an activity.

3. Membership: Melissa Hattman, Chair

Melissa sent customized emails to all levels of members and has received 6 additional renewal memberships since July 1, bringing that total to 161. Life members will now receive a replacement membership card, if requested, with updated contact information to reward and encourage joining at that level. The committee is working on membership benefits and making them known.

Clark will arrange a meeting with Jim Hertel, from the HR office, Steve, Debbie and Melissa to work on a university system for identifying prospective retirees and ways to identify those retirees who have passed away. The 3 other UM campuses are dealing with the same need for information.

IV. Update on Retiree of the Year Award

Clark reported that although the 2020 State of the University and Founders Dinner events will probably be cancelled, though that decision has not been formally announced, the Retirees Association has identified our nominees for each relevant category.

V. Campus Update

Clark reported that the campus announced a phased reopening for the Fall 2020 semester, scheduling classes in a blended format. Employees who now work at home are encouraged to continue to do so. Classes are limited to 70 students in the largest campus classrooms. All faculty will teach behind plexiglass shields. Class schedules will be staggered to limit numbers of people in class at one time. Masks will be required in all campus buildings and outside of them when social distancing is not possible. Dave Ganz reported that there is still hope for fall enrollment because some students may enroll at the last moment when they find they cannot go to former campus. Campus frustration is increased and morale lowered due to the virus situation, required salary reductions and increased course loads. If a class is small enough, (fewer than 30 students) and social distancing is possible, the course may be held face to face or on line or both.

VI. New Business

Dave and Lol discussed a change in UM System retirement plans beginning on Aug 1, 2020. Current retirees' plans will not be affected if the university does move away from TIAA. TIAA is serving the university well at this time but in the long term the campus may be negatively affected. After some discussion, Clark reported that he did not favor the RA formally committing itself to an official position on proposed changes in the system administration and the UM-Columbia Chancellor role. A Curators meeting video provides information on recommendations about each campus.

VII Next Meeting

The 7/15 meeting was adjourned at 3:10. The next zoom meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 19 at 1:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Helene Sherman

Secretary