

UMSL Retirees Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Glen Echo Country Club  
May 22, 2024

Attendees: Candi Agnew, Sue Baber, Mimi Duncan, Tom Eyssell, Dave Ganz, David Garin, Melissa Hattman, Debbie Kettler, Helene Sherman, Steve Spaner, Cindy Vantine, Mary Bosnick, UMSL Liaison.

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**A. Welcome and Call to Order:** President Melissa Hattman called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**B. Approval of March 20, 2024, minutes:** Minutes were approved as submitted. Melissa noted that the revised constitution and bylaws were sent electronically to the membership at 9:30 a.m. today (5/22/24.) These governing documents will be voted on at the Business meeting, June 14, 2024.

**C. Treasurer's Report:** The report included \$150 checks for membership renewals. These are the checks that have been received—not credit cards. Report reflects expenses for membership campaign and bus tour.

**D. Committee/Association Reports**

**Membership:** Mimi Duncan reported that the membership campaign is in full swing. Renewal letters were sent on May 15<sup>th</sup> and another communication will go out on June 6<sup>th</sup>. As of May 20, there have been 37 renewals. At the June meeting, Mimi will have final numbers, analytics and recommendations. System opt-in SharePoint site has yielded one new individual and Mimi has reached out to that individual. During the past year, Mimi has visited the Faculty Senate/University Assembly, Staff Association and Spring Faculty Meeting. Mimi mentioned that at one of these presentations, a current faculty member inquired if the Retirees Association might want to consider offering mentorship to new faculty members. There was a discussion of this possibility.

**Planning and Events:** Cindy Vantine began by thanking Mary Bosnick and Dave Ganz for their efforts that made the April campus tour a success. There were 22 attendees, and everyone seemed to enjoy the tour. Chris Spilling also joined the tour and offered information on upcoming physical changes to the campus.

Cindy distributed the results of the survey possible events. Survey was very revealing. A wine tour is the “unofficial” Fall event. The top vote-getters included: Art Museum, History Museum, Blues Museum, Holocaust Museum, St. Louis Zoo. Other places for consideration are the Money Museum, Federal Reserve, the St. Louis Public Library, Soldiers Memorial. There was a suggestion to reach out to Ron Edwards, since he was one of the original founders of the Blues Museum. Mimi mentioned that perhaps we could have an on-campus event with a member of the UM System administration to update the UMSLRA members.

**Spring Luncheon:** Debbie Kettler reported that there are 40 attendees so far. An invitation postcard has been sent and she intends to follow up with personal emails. A cash bar will be available. There will be a number of business items to be discussed at the June luncheon but there was a discussion on having a speaker at a future luncheon.

**Communications:** Sue Baber thanked everyone for their contributions to the newsletter. There was a suggestion for future newsletters to include a spotlight of a retiree or report on retiree travel.

**Nominations:** Helene Sherman presented the slate which will be voted on at the June business meeting: President-Elect: Connie Jeffries. Secretary: Clark Hickman. Treasurer: Steve Spaner. Board vacancies (2 yr. terms): Dave Ganz and Sue Baber. Open board vacancy (1 yr. term): Helene Sherman.

A ballot will be prepared with space available for any nominations that come from the floor.

**Retiree of the Year:** Helene announced that the committee has completed its work. The 2024 awardees are faculty: Dave Ganz and staff: Benard Diggs. These awards will be presented at the State of the University address scheduled for August 23, 2024. Helene will work with Susan Elliott to have our awardees information as a part of the State of the University program.

**Alumni Association Update:** Mary Bosnick informed the board that Jennifer Jezek-Taussig has been named the permanent Executive Director of the Alumni Association. UMSLRA budget request (\$1750) will be presented to the Alumni Association Finance Committee in June. Mary indicated that she didn't anticipate that this amount would change.

## **E. Old Business**

**Future Funding Discussion (membership fees, luncheon fee):** Melissa wanted to start a conversation which would address the financial realities as well as keeping the UMSLRA vital and encourage new members. Presently, the UMSLRA budget subsidizes the December luncheon by \$500 and the Spring luncheon by \$2,000. There was a discussion to consider charging \$35 for the Spring luncheon and increase our membership dues from the current \$15.

There was a note of caution that if we increase these dues/luncheons, we need offer a concrete explanation on what the funds will be used. Perhaps consider establishing a small scholarship.

Tom Eyssell offered a suggestion that we offer membership to adjunct faculty considering many of these faculty members worked for UMSL for decades.

**Update on Activity Survey Responses:** This item was discussed in the Planning and Events Committee report.

**F.** There was no new business.

**G. Announcements:** Several board members will travel to Columbia on May 30<sup>th</sup> for a meeting with members from the other campus Retiree Associations.

Dave Ganz mentioned the retirement event for Theresa Keuss, UMSL Registrar will be held the afternoon of May 30<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Prepared by Candi Agnew, UMSLRA Secretary