MSURA Board Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2013

The meeting of the MSU Retirees Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on October 2, in room 125 Nisbet Building.

Present: Ron Smith, Anders Johanson, Patrick Scheetz, John Forsyth, Jerry Hull, Marilyn Rothert, David Brower, Al LeBlanc, Sharon Butler, Rosemary Pavlik, Stephanie Barch, Nancy Craig, Brenda Spackman, Gale Gower.

It was moved by Dave Brower and seconded by Anders Johanson to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2013 MSURA board meeting as read. The motion passed.

Human Resources Report: Sharon Butler, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, spoke on the upcoming changes to Human Resources. There will be a single incoming phone number for Human Resources, and a Solutions Center of 30 staff will answer questions and direct inquiries that come in on that phone line. Benefits will become Total Compensation and Wellness, headed by Renee Rivard. She will also be in charge of strategic planning. Jim Nash will continue as director of Employee Relations. Chris Hannah will be director of Human Resources Accounting, Metrics and Strategies as well as Communications. In June 2014 the EBS project will end and those staff positions will join Human Resources.

There will be a ‘soft opening’ of the new system in mid-2014, with a ‘grand opening’ in October 2014.

Development/Budget Items: Dave Brower is working on obtaining information about retiree contributions to MSU and their impact on the university. He hopes to discuss this information with President Simon.

President’s Report: President Ron Smith asked the board for suggestions for the May annual luncheon. One suggestion for entertainment is to have the MSU Summer Circle Players describe their upcoming summer season. Ron suggested that the business meeting could be conducted before the entertainment. Marilyn Rothert suggested it could be conducted before the food is served.

Ron was contacted by Sue Putmum from the MSU Police looking to hire security people. The pay would be $10.24 an hour, with three or four hour shifts a week. She can be contacted at putnums@police.msu.edu. The job could be posted on the MSURA website and in the enotices.

Past President’s Report: Patrick Scheetz thanked Ron Smith for mentioning in the newsletter the need for new board members. There will be an announcement in the newsletter for 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Patrick also mentioned the need to keep soliciting members for their needs.

Health Benefits Committee Report: Marilyn Rothert and Renee Rivard have spoken about the best ways to communicate health information to retirees. Retiree benefits will remain the same for the time being, according to Renee. Marilyn will try to get a note from Human Resources about retiree benefits into the next newsletter.

There is some confusion about the Best Doctors and Health Advocate information. Their roles should be explained by Human Resources.

There was a discussion of auto insurance rates, which interact with Medicare rates, since Medicare does not have to provide catastrophic coverage. There is some legislation pending that may change Michigan law and eliminate this rate increase. There are no changes yet.

The committee will meet again in early December.

Membership Committee Report: Nancy Craig said that there are 59 returees requesting tickets to the MSU Women’s Volleyball game on October 11. There is a ‘Think Pink’ theme for cancer awareness.

Nancy asked if the board would be interested in another Lugnuts outing. The board expressed an interest for an outing in 2014 when there would once again be the free food for seniors, and fireworks. It was suggested that it wuld be best to go in May, June or July.

Newsletter Report: The local fall newsletter was sent to 2,671 retirees at a cost of $1,032.40. The next deadline is October 11.

New post office regulations prevent the newsletters from being folded. What will be saved on folding will be absorbed by postage costs. Al LeBlanc will look for another provider for mailing the newsletter besides MSU mailing.

MSURA Data Downloads Report: John Forsyth said that we have not switched over to the new data download yet.

John asked if the website should be doing different things that it is right now.

The computers in the MSURA office can now be used by anyone who has access to the office and needs to use a computer. They will not need a password. Instructions will be posted.

E-Notices and Twitter Report: Anders Johanson will be going to Florida before the next meeting, but will maintain the e-notices and twitter sites.

Old Newsboys Report: Brenda Spackman said that the Old Newsboys newspaper sale will take place December 5.

Other Items: Rosemary Pavlik said that a committee is being formed to meet with Dr. Simon and let her know the impact of retirees on the university. Members on the committee are: Rosemary Pavlik, Dave Brower, Jerry Hull, and Angie Brown.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled on November 6 in 125 Nisbet Building. Patrick Scheetz will conduct the meeting as Ron Smith will not be able to be at the meeting.