**MSURA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

February 4, 2015

125 Nisbet Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Present: Patrick Scheetz, Rick Vogt, Jerry Hull, Ron Smith, Liz Thomas, David Brower, Nancy Craig, Al LeBlanc, John Forsyth, Marilyn Rothert, Angela Brown, Chuck Webb, Patricia Horn, Gale Gower

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Patrick Scheetz.

Guests Bob Thomas, Assistant Vice President, Advancement Marketing and Communication, Kathleen Deneau, Director of Annual Giving, and Dan Chigwiden, Director of Gift Planning from MSU University Development, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on how MSURA might partner with the University over the next five years to help the University with the Capital Campaign. They reported that MSURA leadership has contributed $600,000 in lifetime giving to the University and discussed the possibility of establishing an endowed $50,000 student scholarship. There are two anonymous donors who would pledge $25,000 if such a scholarship were to be established. They would also like a representative from MSURA be on the Giving Advisory Board of MSU University Development. The next steps would be to have the concept of an endowed scholarship approved by the MSURA Board by the March or April board meeting, with an announcement of the student scholarship fundraising to the membership in May.

Chuck Webb recommended three motions:

* To approve moving ahead in concept to minimally raise $50,000 over the next five years from our MSURA members to establish a permanently-endowed MSURA student scholarship. The motion was moved by Ron Smith and seconded by Nancy Craig. The motion passed.
* To accept two anonymous challenge grants of up to $25,000 on a 1:1 match for the MSURA leadership team. The motion was moved by Marilyn Rothert, and seconded by David Brower. The motion passed.
* To have Patrick Scheetz, Angela Brown, David Brower and Chuck Webb work with the appropriate MSU officials to craft the wording for the MSURA endowed student scholarship and to distribute the MSURA student scholarship draft documents to the Board of Directors of MSURA week or so prior to the March meeting so that establishment of the student scholarship may be introduced and brought to a vote at the March board meeting. The motion was moved by Nancy Craig and seconded by Angela Brown. The motion passed.

Approval of January 7, 2015 Minutes: David Brower moved that the January minutes be approved with the addition of Sally Potter as entertainment for the Annual Meeting, and Al LeBlanc working with Rick Vogt and Trish Horn on possible redesign of the newsletter letterhead. Angela Brown seconded the motion. It was passed.

Past President’s Report: Past President Ron Smith has not received any nominations for Volunteer of the Year. He will meet in March with John Forsyth, Nancy Craig and Jerry Hull to discuss the award to discuss the award and to consider two potential candidates for the award which he has identified.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer David Brower handed out the December, 2014 financial statement. David is doing research on donations to MSU versus subscriptions as a possible future mode of financial support for MSURA. David will work with Al LeBlanc on costs for mailing the newsletters.

Budget and Finance: Treasurer David Brower reported that he is working with Angela Brown, Nancy Craig and Rick Vogt (as members of the Finance Committee of the MSURA) and putting together a budget for next year.

President’s Report: President Patrick Scheetz reported that he and Angela Brown had met in early January with Renee Rivard, Director of Staff Benefits, MSU Human Resources, and Sharon Butler, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources, who expressed the University’s continuing support for the Association. They will offer financial support for the Big Ten Retiree Association Conference when they know what the conference budget will be. President Scheetz acknowledged that MSURA is grateful for their support.

President Scheetz said that we will revisit the idea of a survey of members at a later date.

The idea of developing a Retirees Manual will be discussed at a later date.

Dates for meetings for the 2015-2016 year were discussed:

 Board Speaker

 September 9 14

 October 7 12

 November 4 9

 December 2 7

 January 6 11

 February 3 8

 March 2 7

 April 6 11

 April 27 May 2

Plans for the Annual Membership Luncheon of the MSU Retirees Association are progressing. The planning committee will meet February 11.

Vice President’s Report: Angela Brown reported that the Big Ten Retiree Association Conference planning committee will meet on February 12. Date saver notes have gone out to possible attendees at all Big Ten universities.

Angela and Etta Abraham are working on speakers for next year member meetings.

Human Resources Report: There was no report.

Health Benefits Committee Report: There was no report.

Membership Committee report: There was no report.

Development Fund Report: A gift for the Development Fund of the MSURA was received from Mary Zehner. All those making gifts are acknowledged in the newsletter and each receives a “thank you” note from Chuck Webb.

Communications Reports:

-Newsletter Report: Al LeBlanc commented that we need to keep our paper communications since many older members do not use computers or may not be able to attend meetings. Al will investigate one more newsletter that would be mailed to all members. The August newsletter could also be expanded in size, according to Al. Al was commended on the excellent February/March newsletter just published.

-IT Retiree Database Management: John Forsyth reported that the system is running smoothly.

-eNotices Operations: There was no report.

-Interest Group News: There was no report.

-Website: Please send any request for changes to Anders Johanson. He is completeing all jobs from is Florida location.

-Facebook Operations: Anders Johanson reported to Patrick Scheetz that there are 174 “likes” on Facebook.

Office Management: Liz Thomas reported that the office has good coverage. She has not had anyone express interest in becoming the assistant office manager. Board members are encouraged to tell their friends about this available position.

United Way: There was a call-a-thon at the Capital Area United Way offices to see if more money could be raised, but many of the people listed as key contacts for departments at MSU were not accurate. Jeff Brody, Co-Chair of the MSU Community Charitable Campaign, will be contacted about this need for updating the contact information.

Old Newsboys Report: There was no report.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.