**MSU Retirees Association Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2016**

**27 Nisbet Building, Michigan State University**

Present: Angela Brown, Chuck Webb, Ron Smith, Jerry Hull, Louise Selanders, Michael Gardner, John Forsyth, Rick Vogt, Al LeBlanc, Nancy Craig, Bruce Smith, Jacqie Babcock, Daniel Mackey, Patrick Scheetz, Etta Abrahams, David Brower, Gale Gower

The meeting was called to order by President Angela Brown at 1:00 p.m. Additions to the agenda were approved: a report on the 2016 Faculty/Academic Staff Retirement Luncheon, and a report on the retirees’ survey.

The minutes from the February 3, 2016 MSURA board meeting were approved.

President’s Report:

MSURA Annual Luncheon: There will be a vote on the changes to the bylaws at the Annual Luncheon business meeting. President Angela Brown will put together a statement to be reviewed by the Board. It will then be printed for distribution to the members at the Annual Luncheon.

Angela has spoken to all current board members about continuing their positions. There will be two openings for At-Large members on the Board for next year. Louise Selanders, a current At-Large representative, said that she will not be able to continue to serve as an At-Large representative, but would still like to serve in some capacity in the organization. Angela thanked her for her contributions on the Board this year. Bruce Smith has indicated that he would like to be a candidate for one of those positions. Jerry Hull said that he is willing to serve in any capacity as needed. Angela thanked him for his service to the organization.

Angela will put together a nominating committee. Rick Vogt and Etta Abrahams volunteered to be on it.

WKAR Tour: Angela had sent a thank you letter to Gary Reed and Kathy Zell from WKAR thanking them for the recent tour. Gary replied that he had enjoyed having us for the tour.

Several members indicated that they will be helping with the Faculty/Academic Staff Retirement Luncheon: John Forsyth and his wife Gretchen, Ron and Joan Smith, Brenda Spackman and Nancy Craig. Angela thanked them for their help.

Vice President’s Report:

Etta Abrahams will be the speaker at the April membership meeting. She is waiting to hear if Gary Hoppenstand will still be able to be the other speaker. The tour of the Bott Nursing Building will be on April 29.

Treasurer’s Report:

Dave distributed copies of he February 29, 2016 MSURA financial statement and a revised copy of the January 31, 2016 financial statement. The incorrect entry put through last month on the golf outing has been corrected and the accounting for the golf outing is final.

For February, revenues totaled $1,442.91, including $1,240 correcting the prior month golf outing entry. Expenses for the month totaled $704.46, so revenues exceeded expenses for February by $738.45. Year-to-date, revenues total $18,153.60 and expenses total $14,796.39, before accounting for the Big 10 activity, resulting in an operating surplus of $3,357.21. The $2,500 special scholarship previously approved will likely be reflected in the April financial statement. This may result in operating expenses exceeding revenues for the year.

Past President’s Report: Patrick Scheetz reported that the MSURA/Straightline Golf Outing will be on September 20, 2016. Please let Patrick know of any sponsors who might help with the outing. Mike Gardner will again be in charge of volunteers, and Nancy Craig will be in charge of the silent auction. Please be thinking of items for the silent auction.

MSURA Student Scholarship:

The scholarship currently has $38,200 in cash, with another $19,050 in outstanding pledges. The balance in the expendable scholarship is $1,555. Chuck anticipates that the anonymous foundation gift of $9,000 will be paid in March.

Chuck Webb handed out copies of the new MSURA Student Scholarship brochures.

The Proposed Addendum for the MSURA Student Endowed Scholarship endowment agreement was discussed. It was agreed that eight semesters of eligibility for the scholarship recipients is a reasonable time. It was clarified that the 5% of the endowment principle should mean 5% of market value. David Brower suggested that the wording regarding the amount of the scholarship be altered from increased to changed. (“This amount can be increased at the discretion of the Office of Admissions and the MSURA board of directors.”) The Board voted to accept the changes to the Proposed Addendum.

Chuck Webb spoke with University Advancement. They will be available to advise us, but cannot solicit funds for our scholarship.

Chuck will be stepping down from his position at the end of this year as his family is moving to Grand Rapids. He will be available to advise, but it was felt that a committee needs to be formed to advertise and inform about the scholarship. Patrick Scheetz and Rick Vogt are willing to stay involved. Angela thanked Chuck for his knowledge and leadership in organizing and setting up the scholarship.

Employee Assistance Advisory Committee Update:

Mike Gardner reported that effective August 15, 2016, smoking will be banned on campus. Please let Mike know if there are items you would like to have presented to the committee. A survey on eldercare programming will be coming out soon. The committee is moving to the Work/Life Office in Linton Hall.

Communications:

Newsletter: It was decided, after discussion, that a newsletter subscription form was not necessary to distribute at the Faculty/Academic Staff Retirement Luncheon. Friday is the deadline for comments related to choosing a new masthead for the newsletter. The winner will be announced at the next board meeting.

May 16, 2016 is the deadline for information to be in the June newsletter. It will be mailed June 5. The August issue will be a larger issue, with more than four pages.

eNotices: Patrick Scheetz reported that Trish Horn has been compiling comments from those members who wish to unsubscribe from the website.

So far, there have been eleven responses from members interested in a trip to the 2017 Northwestern/MSU football game, with twenty members interested in participating in the event.

IT Retiree Database Management: There was no report.

Membership Committee:

Nancy Craig announced that June 24 will be the date for the membership to attend the Lugnuts baseball game.

Human Resources:

Daniel Mackey reported on attending the Florida retirees’ luncheon. In answer to a question about how soon future retirees can report their end date, Daniel said that academic staff can report a date up to three years in advance, but support staff must wait until their retirement date.

Office Management: There was no report.

Other Items:

The question was raised as to whether the MSU retirees need a representative on the University Traffic Committee. Mike Gardner will find out who to contact, and Jacqui Babcock volunteered to draft a letter.

Ron Smith reported that the Awards committee will have a short meeting after today’s Board meeting.

The board meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.