

Dates to Remember, January 7, 2026 Board Meeting

- January 9, 11 am to 1 pm, Friday, Lunch at Brody
- January 12, 1:30 – 3 pm, Monday, Membership Meeting, MSU Dairy Barn Initiative
- January 20, 1:30 – 3 pm, STEM Building and Mass Timber Tour, Sandra Lupien
- February 4, 10 am, Board Meeting
- February 9, 1:30 – 3 pm, Monday, Membership Meeting, MSU Library Collections
- February 13, 11 am to 1 pm, Friday, Lunch at Brody
- February 17, 10 am, Michigan Historical Museum, Matt VanAcker, Civil War Flags Collection

MSURA Board Meeting Minutes: January 7, 2026, 10 am

In attendance: Dave Brower, Etta Abrahams, Bill Anderson, Jacqie Babcock, Angela Brown, Sandy Buike, Eric Crawford, Jennifer Decker, John Forsyth, Mike Gardner, Richard Houang, Bill Humphrey, Dan Mackey, Bob Patterson, Patrick Scheetz, Bruce Smith, Lori Strom, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt, Kate Wight

Called to Order: 10:02 am

Item(s) Requiring Discussion and a Vote:

There were no items requiring discussion and a vote.

Review/Approve Minutes of December 3, 2025 Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes was made by A. Brown and seconded by M. Gardner; the minutes were approved.

President's Report (Dave Brower)

- **Alumni Collaboration:** A meeting with the Alumni Office will be scheduled over the next month or two.
- **Nominations Committee:** Looking ahead to filling the nomination slate, D. Brower will be contacting all board members to get a sense for the role(s) to which each is willing to commit for the 2026 – 2027 year. B. Patterson has agreed to continue as Treasurer. L. Thomas has agreed to continue updating the data base of retirees.

Vice-President's Report (Sandy Buike, Angie Brown)

- **January 12, 2026, Meeting Planning:** S. Buike will introduce Barry Bradford, C. E. Meadows Endowed Chair, Dairy Management and Nutrition; Dr. Bradford will share information and a video about MSU's new dairy facilities. Volunteers will be on hand to help Doughnuts and coffee will be provided. B. Anderson will get more dairy gift cards for the BYOB program. B. Humphrey will collect receipts and deposit cash received into MSURA account. L. Thomas will bring copies of the January newsletter and the Event Grid to January membership meeting.
- **Big 10 2027 Conference Planning:** Of the three places under consideration – the Graduate, the Marriott, and the Kellogg Center – the Kellogg Center comes closest to meeting conference space requirements. For now, a hold will be put on 40 rooms in the Kellogg Center that have acceptable bathrooms. Dates will be finalized and definite venue will be chosen. The committee is prepared to offer alternative lodging recommendations for anyone who may prefer a place other than the Kellogg Center. Current thinking about dates is that the conference will take place August 10 – 12, 2027. Attendees will begin arriving on Monday, August 9th. The next Big 10 meeting is on January 13, 2026, via Zoom.

Treasurer's Report (Bob Patterson)

12/31/2025 Financial Report Review and Approval:** B. Patterson presented the December 2025 financial statement. Of particular note, donations to the endowment account during December, totaling \$8,600, put us in a very comfortable position for supporting our scholarship program. A. Brown moved to approve the report; the motion was seconded by J. Forsyth. The report was approved.

Events Report (Jennifer Decker, Pam Marcis, Dave Brower, Rick Vogt, Jacqie Babcock)

- **Wharton Center Event:** Two possible time frames are being considered – March/April or June/July. D. Brower confirmed that the group is most interested in a tour and an update on future plans.
- **Military Interest Group Event:** A presentation is scheduled for March 14, 2026, at MSUFCU, Mt. Hope and Farm Lane, Community Room. After the presentation a decision will be made about whether the speaker will be invited back to present at a membership meeting in 2026 – 2027 or beyond.
- **Michigan Flag Presentation:** This event is scheduled for February 17, 2026, at 10 am. Only two people have signed up for it. This event can accommodate up to 20. The RSVP deadline is January 30, 2026.
- **Burcham Hills Wine Tasting Event:** D. Brower will provide a bio on the speaker to R. Vogt and C. Pell for inclusion in the February/March newsletter and e-Notices. This event is scheduled for 5-20-2026, at 1:30 pm. It can accommodate about 50 people.
- **STEM Building Tour:** At least 30 people have signed up for this event, scheduled for January 20 at 1:30. This event can accommodate up to 50. Deadline to reserve is 1-13-2026.

MSU Human Resources (Dan Mackey)

D. Mackey is following through on commitment to get names from benefit vendors, from whom we may request additional support for upcoming financial needs.

MSURA College / Age Alive: (Bruce Smith, Lori Strom)**

- MSURA College: The group continues to make progress towards its goal of introducing courses in the fall of 2026. See B. Smith's full report in section that follows the minutes.
- Age Alive: L. Strom reported that the city council approved the age friendly community plan update.
- Other news related to Age Alive:
 - The annual forum is scheduled for March 26, from 9 am to 2 pm, at MSUFCU Headquarters.
 - Upcoming awards ceremony will recognize researchers among other awards (legacy, inter-generational)
 - The Generations Connect program has been very successful.
 - Town and Gown, scheduled at noon monthly on the third Friday is now in person at Peoples Church; the topic for the January 16 meeting will be packaging and the plethora of plastics.
 - The Healing Butterfly Garden, in the lobby of the Hannah Community Center, is experiencing a shortage of helpers.

Annual Meeting, May 5, 2026 (Pam Marcis, Liz Thomas, Dave Brower) Nothing new to report

Scholarship Committee (Bruce Smith) Nothing new to report

Volunteer of the Year Award and Nominations (Bill Anderson)**

The nomination form has been sent out in latest newsletter and e-Notice. One nomination has been received. The committee will be meeting to select winner after the nomination deadline of March 27, 2026.

Membership (Jacqie Babcock)** See report following minutes.

A few more members have expressed an interest in volunteering.

Volunteer (Jeanette Robertson, Chris DeFouw)** Nothing new to report

Interest Groups (Chris DeFouw) Nothing new to report

Retiree Lunch on Campus (Mike Gardner)

Lunch at Brody will take place on January 9, 2026, at 11 am; lunches will continue the second Friday of each month, from 11 am to 1 pm. Future Dates: February 13; March 13.

Communications/Underwriters (Cheryl Pell, Rick Vogt, Jacqie Babcock)

- The January newsletter should be arriving in mailboxes today. The deadline for the February/March newsletter is January 9, 2026.
- **Mailings to University Administrators and Deans:** E. Crawford has prepared a list to whom the February/ March newsletter will be sent. D. Brower's letter, providing background info about the MSURA, will be included with the first mailing.
- **D. Brower** will soon approach StraighLine (Mike Bisaro) to ask about their willingness to again help defray the cost of the annual meeting.
- **D. Brower** will also help with acquiring additional funds to cover some of the cost of hosting the 2027 Big 10 Conference.

Office Management (Liz Thomas) Nothing new to report

MSURA Technology, website (John Forsyth, Rick Vogt, Richard Houang)

Update on MSURA Website Project: Training for R. Vogt and R. Houang will begin in January. The new website will be shared with the board soon.

Other Items

MSURA shirts (Angie Brown): A. Brown will prepare and send out a spreadsheet requesting us to submit size and preference for short or long sleeves.

S. Buike expressed an interest in developing a video presentation that would highlight some of our activities over the last year. This will be shared at the annual meeting.

S. Buike moved to adjourn the meeting. A. Brown seconded. Motion approved.
Meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

Next Board Meeting: February 4, 2026, 10:00 am

** See additional information in the following page(s).

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Wight
MSURA Secretary

January 8, 2026

Report submitted by Bob Patterson, Financial Report

December 2025 revenues totaled \$96.14, comprised of nominal income from Interest income and donations.

Expenditures for December totaled \$324.31, which was primarily from \$118 in supplies, and \$200 for newsletter articles and program support. This resulted in a deficit for the month of \$228.17.

At the December 3, 2025 MSURA Board meeting the FY25-26 budget was amended to decrease postage expense by \$1,800 and increase printing expense by \$1,800. This amendment is budget neutral.

As stated in the notes for December 2025 the MSURA Endowment has a balance of \$229,894.16, an increase of \$8,600 due to several December donations. The related income account has a balance of \$6,440.62, an increase of \$3,077.92 from the previous month due to the allocation of FY25-26 Q2 investment income.

Report submitted by Bruce Smith, MSURA College

We have moved forward with a small collaborative team with representatives from MSURA, FEA, provost office, and E.L. Prime Time. We have determined a name for this effort: Continuous Learning Collaborative: Inspiring Lifelong Discovery (CLC). An article will be written with more elaboration for the February newsletter. The intent is to start offering short courses this fall hosted by EL Prime Time. The purpose of this message is to invite course proposals through the following link (this may also be communicated by FEA and Prime Time):

www.cityofeastlansing.com/2614/Continuous-Learning-Collaborative

Report submitted by Jacqie Babcock, Events and Membership

Welcome emails were sent to all retirees through December 2025. There were a few responses thanking MSURA and indicating they hoped to be able to attend some meetings/events or have moved out of the area. Attachments included upcoming events, the electronic MSURA brochure and a link to the MSURA website and newsletters.

Thank you for attending emails were sent to attendees at the December 2025 meeting and the BYOB first-time members. Returned comments were very favorable to the presentation.

January 20 STEM Building Tour: As of January 2, 2026, Ralph Pyle confirmed there are 30 people signed up for the tour.

Report submitted by Jeanette Robertson

J. Robertson will send email to those volunteering to help at the January 12, 2026 membership meeting.