

Dates to Remember, February 4, 2026 Board Meeting

- February 9, 1:30 – 3 pm, Monday, Membership Meeting, MSU Library Collections, Leslie McRoberts
- February 13, 11 am to 1 pm, Friday, Lunch at Brody
- February 17, 10 am, Michigan Historical Museum, Matt VanAcker, Civil War Flags Collection
- March 4, 10 am, Board Meeting
- March 9, 1:30 – 3 pm, Monday, Membership Meeting, MSU Office of Sustainability
- March 12, 2 pm, StraightLine Financial Planning Event, via Zoom
- March 13, 11 am – 1 pm, Friday, Lunch at Brody

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

Called to Order: 10:00 am

Review/Approve Minutes of January 7, 2026 Board Meeting

Motion to approve minutes was made by R. Vogt and seconded by B. Smith; the minutes were approved.

President's Report (Dave Brower)

- **Alumni Collaboration / Creation of Affinity Group:** A meeting with Alumni Office representatives took place on 1-28-2026 via Zoom. D. Brower, A. Brown, S. Buike, and J. Decker discussed options with Lisa Parker and Pamela Jones of the Alumni Office. J. Forsyth, B. Patterson, and R. Vogt will join them in future meetings to discuss the possibility of becoming an affinity group under the umbrella of University Advancement and the Alumni Office.
- **Nominations Committee:** D. Brower will continue to contact all board members to get a sense for the role(s) to which each is willing to commit for the upcoming year, 2026 – 2027.

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

- **February 9, 2026, Meeting Planning:** A. Brown will introduce Leslie McRoberts, MSU Head Librarian for Special Collections and University Archives. J. Robertson needs additional volunteers for this meeting. B. Anderson will get more Biggby gift cards for the BYOB program. The Michigan Civil War Flags presentation, on 2-17-26, will be announced.
- **April 13, 2026 Membership Meeting:** Location will be changed to MSUFCU Headquarters, Building 2.
- **Big 10 2027 Conference Planning:** A main room and at least two breakout rooms will be used for the conference. S. Buike proposed that the board spend four hours in a planning meeting, which will take place on February 12, at the Kellogg Center, from 10 to 2 pm. A tour of the facilities will be included. With the objective of showcasing MSU, we may highlight the recently announced Leinweber Center for Engineering and Digital Innovation, made possible following a gift of \$50 million from the Leinweber Foundation. Doing so will allow us to focus on what we are doing to prepare our students for AI and other forms of leading-edge technology. The dates currently set for the conference are August 10 – 12, 2027. Attendees will begin arriving on Monday, August 9th.

Treasurer's Report (Bob Patterson)

01/31/2026 Financial Report Review and Approval: January 2026 revenues totaled \$339.19, comprised of nominal income from donations and interest income.

Expenditures for January totaled \$1,069.55, which was primarily from \$836 for newsletter printing and postage. This resulted in a deficit for the month of \$730.36.

As stated in the notes for January 2026 the MSURA Endowment has a balance of \$231,494.16, an increase of \$1,600 thanks to three January donations. The related income account has a balance of \$1,440.62, a decrease of \$5,000 from the previous month due to funding for MSU spring semester 2026 student scholarships.

J. Forsyth moved to approve the report; the motion was seconded by B. Smith. The report was approved.

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

- **Wharton Center Event:** Tour date is set for **June 30, 2026**. Wharton Center will provide coffee/water. We will provide cookies and/or donuts.
- **Military Interest Group Event:** A presentation is scheduled for **April 14, 2026**, at MSUFCU, Mt. Hope and Farm Lane, Community Room. We will provide refreshments. 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.
- **Carillon Event / Volunteer Appreciation Event:** Revisit in March, after possibilities are discussed further at a meeting among J. Robertson, J. Decker, and others.
- **Michigan Flag Presentation:** This event is scheduled for February 17, 2026, at 10 am. Five people have signed up for it. This event can accommodate up to 20. The RSVP deadline is extended.

MSU Human Resources (Dan Mackey)

Benefits is now called Total Rewards.

MSURA College – Continuous Learning Collaborative / Age Alive: (Bruce Smith, Lori Strom)

- MSURA College / Continuous Learning Collaborative: Article submitted for the February/ March newsletter. B. Smith is currently looking for presenters for the program in Fall 2026.
- Age Alive: L. Strom reported that planning for the Age Alive Education and Research Forum is ongoing. The theme is “Advancing Mobility Across Setting As We Age.” This annual forum is scheduled for March 26, 2026, from 9 am to 2 pm, at MSUFCU Headquarters.
- Other news related to Age Alive: The Generations Connect program is being expanded.
- Kudos from Prime Time’s Alesha to B. Smith and L. Strom for their collaboration, time, and effort.

Annual Meeting, May 5, 2026 (Pam Marcis, Liz Thomas, Dave Brower)

- **Meal and price finalized:** Lasagne (choice of meat or vegetarian) and a gluten free option; all at \$30.
- **Finalize registration and guest forms:** Include in April/May newsletter; confirm the guest list with E. Crawford and J. Babcock; decide on seating chart with J. Babcock.
- **StraightLine is sponsor:** StraightLine will again submit \$2,000 to defray cost of the luncheon.
- **Recruit Volunteers:** J. Robertson will handle.
- **Gifts / door prizes:** Mints will again be provided by the Faloons; J. Babcock will ask Newman Lofts about the possibility of getting gift certificate(s) from businesses that rent from them; A. Brown will ask MSUFCU if they will contribute with a gift (basket or certificate); D. Brower noted that we have four Eat-At-State meal tickets to distribute, complements of Culinary Services.

Scholarship Committee (Bruce Smith)

Scholarship applications are out. B. Smith will meet with R. Vogt to discuss an article about the scholarship program. Deadline for submissions is March 1, 2026. Scholarship winners will be selected during a meeting that will take place after March 1.

Volunteer of the Year Award and Nominations (Bill Anderson)

Nominations are under way. Deadline is 3-27-2026. The committee will meet on April 1 to select the winner.

Membership (Jacqie Babcock)

Emails will continue to be sent to acknowledge attendance at membership meetings.

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 February 13, 2026, at 11 am; lunches will continue the second Friday of each month, from 11 am to 1 pm. Future Dates: March 13; April 10.

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

- **Mailings to University Administrators and Deans:** The April/May newsletter will be sent to administrators and deans.
- Work has begun on the April/May newsletter. The deadline for submissions is March 6, 2026.
- J. Decker will submit a photo of J Batt for the annual meeting notice in the April/May newsletter.
- The date and information for the Lugnuts game will be included in the April/May and June/July newsletters.

Office Management (Liz Thomas)

L. Thomas will reserve rooms for board and membership 2026-2027 meetings. Note that she can reserve the community room at MSUFCU only through December 2026.

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

Update on MSURA Website Project: Sitecore Training for J. Forsyth, R. Vogt, and R. Houang has been completed. The transfer to the new website will take place in August. New features will be added after the transfer. The transfer will be announced in the August/September newsletter. The new website will be shared with the board in April.

Other Items

MSURA shirts (Angie Brown): A. Brown will send out a spreadsheet asking us to submit size and preference for short or long sleeves and fabric content. She will bring samples to our 2-9-2026 membership meeting. She asks that we submit our choice by the end of February; shirts will be ordered for the board.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 am.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Wight
MSURA Secretary

February 11, 2026