**MSURA Board Meeting minutes: October 6,** **2021, 10 am, Via Zoom**

In attendance: Rick Vogt, Cheryl Pell, Angela Brown, John Forsyth, Dan Mackey, Neelam Kher, Pam Marcis, Dave Brower, Liz Thomas, Mike Gardner, Bruce Smith, William Anderson, Kate Wight

Called to Order: 10:03 am

Minutes for September 8, 2021 meeting approved. Neelam Kher moved, John Forsyth seconded to approve the minutes. September minutes have been revised to reflect the attendance of William Anderson at that meeting.

**President’s Report (Rick Vogt)**

Medicare Advantage Plans, Only One Plan at a Time: Retirees have talked about switching to another Medicare Advantage Plan. By switching plans they will be dropped from Humana and will have to wait until following year to be picked up again. John Forsyth suggested that we make it clear that it is the Social Security Administration (CMS) plan that will drop them. MSU HR and Humana do not have control over this. Dan Mackey reinforced this. An individual can be in only one plan at a time.

Healthcare Insurance, Balance Billing Retirees: There have been few calls since article was published in the August / September newsletter. This is not a widespread problem. Humana and HR are monitoring.

Straightline Financial Planning Session, September 15, 2021: Meeting went well, with about 70 attendees. Another meeting is planned for December 15. Will future meetings be quarterly or annual? Decision may be based on level of attendance / participation.

Big Ten Retirees Association Conference 2021, Oct 19th: Meeting will be virtual. Special interest groups may be in breakout groups. Rick will pass on any further information. Several plan to sit in on the meeting.

Survey Membership, Explore Comfort Level for Meeting in Person: Are people comfortable meeting in groups of 30 or more? Rick proposes asking all retirees re: their comfort level. Should we plan to meet in person in November? John and Bruce will explore options for broadcasting in person meetings to those who prefer to join membership meetings virtually.

**Vice President’s Report (Neelam Kher)**

2021 – 2022 Programs: Neelam was notified by November speaker that she will not be able to speak at our November meeting. Therefore we are now looking for speakers for both November and December meetings. Barbara Loyer has been contacted for November meeting. Dr. Melissa Woo, Executive Vice President at MSU has been invited for our December meeting. We await replies from both potential speakers. Mike Gardner will get back with Neelam on speaker for our May annual meeting after he gets confirmation from Alan Haller’s office assistant.

Other sources for speakers that are being explored include several local organizations, through their speaker series.

FRIB Tours: Tours have been very popular. Day trips are popular options for retirees. Neelam shared a long list of options for day trips both within and outside the Lansing area.

Aside: Should we consider meeting in person? Send Neelam an email if you are able and willing to volunteer for the November membership meeting, which will be live. Rick can notify of change of plans in his final e-notice prior to the November meeting. Retirees will be notified that there will be no refreshments. John Forsyth will confirm that meeting will broadcast for those choosing to attend virtually. We will not ask for proof of vaccination. We will require masks for all. Should we provide disposable masks for those who forget theirs? The hosts checking retirees into meeting will write names on the name tags. A basket will be on the sign-in table for donations to the scholarship fund. Neelam will send to Rick the notice about COVID related requirements that the Wharton Center uses.

**Past President’s Report (Roger Baldwin)**

MSURA Scholarship Fundraising Committee: Committee will meet to discuss approach to keep the fundraising efforts going, as well as examining communications towards that effort.

AROHE conference, October 12 - 14: Let Rick or Roger know if you’ve signed up and do not have information about the meeting or a link for joining the meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report (Dave Brower)**

September ledgers just received. Dave will provide a September financial report by Monday (Oct 11).

We have received invoice for renewal of officers and directors liability for the 2021-2022 year. The invoice is for $870, up from $825. Coverage is the same. Dave will send a summary sheet that describes coverage.

Approve Revised Budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year: Dave proposed revising the budget approved last month for 2021-2022 to incorporate underwriting commitment from the College of Music ($500 additional revenue) and adjustments to the expense budget (increasing “Contingency” expense by $500 and moving $1,000 from “Contingency” to a line renamed from “Special Scholarship/gift” to “Endowment Related”). The $1,000 designated now under “Endowment Related” will cover expenses for the writing of articles. Revenues now total $16,400. Expenses total $18,400. The $2,000 deficit between revenues and expenses is the one time cost for broadcasting equipment that was approved during the board meeting on September 8, 2021. Angie moved and Rick seconded to approve the originally submitted and the revised budgets. Both were approved.

Approval of final August Financial Statement will occur next meeting.

**MSU Human Resources (Dan Mackey)**

Benefits Open Enrollment: Enrollment has begun. The HR website has instructions on accessing virtual benefits fair. Info is in the enrollment guide and on website. Live chat with vendors on the 12th and the 14th. Humana webinars on the 13th and 15th. Monday, the 11th – Tabatha Dixon and Dan will do annual presentation to membership meeting. They will show where information is on their website and address issues. Rick anticipates questions about Humana coverage. Dan will refer individuals to Humana to discuss their specific issues.

**Annual Meeting, May 2, 2022, at MSU University Club (Liz Thomas and Pam Marcis)**

No update. Still holding for further planning until January. Mike will reconfirm with athletic director’s office assistant that he will speak on May 2.

**Bus Tours, Planning (Pam Marcis)**

There is nothing scheduled. Historical museum is open only on Thursday, Friday and maybe Saturday. Pam will pursue a local trip in January / February, and perhaps a bus tour in March, April, and / or May. Angie proposed a visit to the Broad Museum as a possibility. Pam will follow up.

**Retiree Meals on Campus (Mike Gardner)**

On hold for now. The campus venues are not currently open to the public.

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

Again, the College of Music is signed up for $500.

[MsuraEditors@msu.edu](mailto:MsuraEditors@msu.edu): for communicating with communications team. Rick will pursue with communications team at some future time choosing and acquiring an email address.

MSURA Logo for communications: Cheryl Pell sent a logo to board member within the last month.

MSURA newsletter, switch from ivory to white paper?: Once provided with home addresses from individual board members, Cheryl will mail a copy of the last newsletter printed on white paper for the sake of comparing how it appears on white vs. ivory paper. A vote will be held during the November board meeting to print on white paper instead of ivory.

**Office Management (Liz Thomas)**

No report.

There are very few people in the Harrison Rd building. According to Dan Mackey, Solution Center is not open for walk-ins. In-person appointments must be scheduled. Less than 25% of the normal staff is in the building on a daily basis. We can meet in the building but it may be difficult to get assistance if we run into difficulties.

Board meeting will continue virtually at this time.

**MSURA Technology, website, Facebook (John Forsyth and Anders Johanson)**

There is a new computer, with Windows 10, in our room. Log-in is different. John will assist with log-in if anyone is interested. A unique account can be set up for individuals interested in using the new computer. John will contact MSU salvage / recycling to learn procedure for scrubbing data and transferring old computer to the MSU Surplus Store.

Facebook is up to 500 followers.

**Membership – Special Interest Groups (Pam Marcis)**

No report. Due to little apparent interest Amy Houghton (Board Games) may put this special interest group on hold. Pending input from Amy, an article about this group may be included in a future newsletter.

**Other Items**

Nothing new.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 am

Next meeting, November 3, 2021, 10 am

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Wight, Secretary, MSURA

October 7, 2021