

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING

APRIL 7, 2021 VIA ZOOM

Attending: Jacqueline Babcock, Angela Brown, David Brower, John Forsyth, Mike Gardner, Dan Mackey, Pamela Marcis, Cheryl Pell, Bruce Smith, Elizabeth Thomas, Rick Vogt (Kate Wight, Guest)

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Rick Vogt, at 10:00 am.

Minutes (J. Babcock): Angela Brown moved and Mike Gardner seconded that the March 3, 2021 minutes be approved. Passed unanimously.

President's Report (R. Vogt on behalf of Roger Baldwin):

Fundraising: We have confirmed two articles to be written by Marco Schimizzi for a fee of \$600. The slightly higher amount is due to background research. Advancement will provide monthly updates of donations.

Elections: Board and officer elections will take place electronically this year due to COVID restrictions. At the moment the following slate is provided: President – Rick Vogt; Vice-President – Open; Secretary – Kate Wight; Treasurer – David Brower; At-Large Members – William Anderson and Michael Gardner.

Rick asked Kate Wight to introduce herself to the board. She retired from the College of Education and has been active in several special interest groups.

Work will continue to identify a candidate for the VP position. A committee is recommended to assist the VP with programming and introductions at monthly meetings.

Voting will take place April 24-30 and will be announced via e-notices.

Annual Meeting: The meeting will be held virtually on May 3 starting at 1 pm. President Stanley will speak at 1:15 pm. After comments he will take Q/A and he welcomes questions from attendees. Following will be announcements of scholarship winners, Volunteer of the Year recipient(s) and Board election results.

Vice-President (R. Vogt):

Humana: Dates have been announced for the virtual updates in May. Some of the issues reported by retirees re: Humana coverage are due to Medicare regulations. Humana must follow their guidelines. Examples are some vaccines, like shingles, are not covered under the program. HR is keeping track of issues for future review.

Programming: StraightLine will present quarterly financial planning events to MSURA members. Remaining dates for this year are in June, September and December.

Rick suggested we continue monthly membership meetings virtually through September 2021 and then reassess.

The B1G Ten Retirees Associations met virtually. All groups are meeting virtually and think that some continued virtual access should be continued after in-person meetings are possible. This means purchase of some technology equipment to continue Zoom and in-person simultaneously.

Treasurer's Report (D. Brower): March 2021 revenues totaled \$596.99, including \$593 in donations. Expenditures totaled \$404.95, including \$119.03 in postage charges and \$269.42 in printing charges. March revenues exceeded expenditures by \$192.04.

Through March 31, 2021 revenues totaled \$11,016.39 and expenditures totaled \$8,366.70. Net revenues exceed expenditures by \$2,649.69 and the Association's net asset balance at March 31, 2021 was \$41,008.33.

As of March 31, 2021 the MSURA Endowment had a balance of \$122,905.16, an increase of \$150 from the prior month. The income account had a balance of \$5,126.63, net of \$2,500 for the second semester disbursement for our 2 MSURA scholarships.

Pam moved and Angie seconded the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Passed unanimously.

Advancement does not have an online procedure for multiple year giving with an end date for the scholarship fund fundraising effort. Jacqie and Dave will contact other units on campus where we know this option has been possible to see how they have managed this.

Dave will contact the Lugnuts to see if the club rooms will be available for attendees this summer.

Scholarships (A. Brown): Angie reported the committee has recommended three names to the Admissions Office. Upon receiving approval she will proceed to invite the students to attend the May 3 virtual annual meeting.

Volunteer of the Year Award (J. Babcock): There are seven nominations. The committee will meet in the next couple of weeks. Committee members are Roger Baldwin, Pamela Marcis, Elizabeth Thomas and Jacqie Babcock.

Underwriters (J. Babcock and R. Vogt): Rick reported MSU Healthcare may be interested in becoming an underwriter. Intramural Sports have also been in discussions. IM sports is working with Humana to become a designated location for Silver Sneakers. There are some hurdles which need to be worked out, however. Alumni Programs is another possibility for underwriting.

While the underwriting possibilities are encouraging, we are losing members to write interesting articles. Rick and Cheryl are looking at options. Cheryl has contacted a journalism professor and he has some students who he can recommend to interview and write articles about activities of members. Cheryl would mentor and edit student articles. They would be offered a fee in the range of \$100/article. Rick is looking into a service where we might be able to purchase some articles. More information and a possible vote will take place at the next meeting on April 28 as there will be budget implications with these options.

Jacqie reminded board members we offered discounts last year that will need to be reviewed. She will communicate with individual underwriters about their budget situations and report back at the next meeting.

Dave will review costs of newsletter keeping in mind the proposals for paying for writers next year.

Human Relations (D. Mackey): Dan reminded people to attend one of the virtual sessions presented by Humana in May.

Bus Tours (Pamela Marcis): Bus tours are not yet being planned. Instead, Pam is looking into the possibility of a gathering at the MSU Horticulture Gardens in early summer. People could bring picnic lunches and some retirees could provide some musical entertainment.

Annual Meeting (P. Marcis and L. Thomas): When the agenda is set Pam and Liz will work on the written agenda to appear on the virtual site for the meeting.

Technology (J. Forsyth): John is looking at equipment and prices related to continuing zoom meetings and recording for monthly speakers. This will likely include a video and audio switch, microphones and some cabling. He expects total expenses in the range of \$1200. We will also need people willing to be trained on using the equipment. He asked for permission to spend up to \$1500. Rick asked that this motion be delayed to the next meeting.

Office Management (L. Thomas): Liz thanked Dave Brower for going into the office while she is out of town. She has not contacted volunteers for office coverage due to the continued closure of the University. She will continue to check with the MSUFCU about reserving the community room on Mt. Hope. At the moment MSURA is on their list but they are not confirming space.

Membership/Special Interest Groups (P. Marcis): No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 am.

Minutes submitted by Jacqueline Babcock