

MSURA Board Meeting minutes: January 5, 2022, 10 am, Via Zoom

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

Called to Order: 10:00 am

Minutes for December 8, 2021 meeting were approved with one clarification. Under President's Report, Human Healthcare Insurance, phrase *with HR and FEA* was added. "A sub-committee ... will meet *with HR and FEA* in January... "

President's Report (Rick Vogt)

Humana Healthcare Insurance: Dan Mackey will confirm date of January 27, 2022, for meeting to review results of survey.

StraightLine Financial Planning Session, December 15: Meeting was virtual. Rick will confirm that quarterly meetings will continue, and get dates.

Meeting In-Person or Virtual Only, When to make the call?: For now membership meetings will be virtual, at least until the rate of new COVID cases reported daily decreases. We will continue to review possibility of resuming in-person membership meetings during our monthly board meetings.

Vice President's Report (Neelam Kher)

2021-2022 Programs: Our presenter for January meeting, Larry Walker, is prepared for a virtual meeting.

In-Person or Virtual Zoom Only for February Meeting?: Neelam will confirm that our speaker for February meeting is comfortable with all possible formats – virtual, in-person, or a combination of the two.

Rick will continue to advertise topic for our membership meetings approximately three months out. He will announce latest updates for format of membership meetings in the e-notices.

Broadcast Membership Mtgs: It is possible to track the number of visits during our virtual membership meetings. Our meeting in October, 2021 (HR benefits and open enrollment) has had the highest number of visits at 29.

Past President's Report (Roger Baldwin)

MSURA Scholarship Fundraising Committee: Angie has the quilt that will be given to one of the scholarship fund donors, chosen by a drawing to take place after March 31, 2022. More than \$50,000 has been pledged and/or donated since the beginning of the campaign on April 1, 2021.

Related Issue: The Informal Fundraising Committee will meet soon to discuss an offer that has been presented by Melissa Smith of Newman Lofts (NL). In exchange for advertising space in our newsletter NL will contribute to MSURA an unspecified amount for each person over 65 years who is referred to NL via our newsletter.

Quotes for MSURA Communications from donors for articles: Brief, simple quotes from scholarship donors are needed by no later than January 9 for article that is being written by Marco Schimizzi . (Why did they contribute?) Angie will provide quotes from past students / graduates who have benefited from the scholarship.

Volunteer Fair, April 1st, tentatively: Roger and Rick will reach out to Lori Strom to help determine the safety and value of holding a fair in Spring 2022.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Brower)

Review / Approve December Financial: Dave presented the December 31, 2021 MSURA Financial Statement. December 2021 revenues totaled \$1,197.25, including \$1,195 in donations. All budgeted underwriting income has been paid. Expenditures totaled \$432.06, including \$130.06 in postage charges and \$285.50 for printing. December revenues exceeded expenditures by \$765.19.

As of December 31, 2021, revenues totaled \$13,713.51 and expenditures totaled \$8,823.38, resulting in an excess of revenues over expenditures to date of \$4,890.13. At this point we are within the parameters of the revised FY2021-22 budget.

As noted in the footnote, as of December 31, 2021 the MSURA Endowment had a balance of \$144,734.16, an increase of \$895 over the prior month. The income account had a balance of \$8,660.49, same as last month as spring semester scholarship charges have not yet been charged to the account.

As of December 31, 2021, we have raised \$52,454 towards our endowment Initiative goal of \$60,000, an increase of \$245 from the prior month.

The December, 2021 financial statement was approved. Kate Wight moved; Angie Brown seconded.

Related Issues:

- Pending: Until a decision is made about whether the Annual Meeting will be virtual or in-person, and due to uncertainty about the number of people willing to attend an in-person meeting, Dave hesitates to contact StraightLine about underwriting a portion of the cost for meeting.
- Pending: Need for additional equipment is dependent upon format of future membership meetings, and number of presenters at any one meeting. (For example: With two or three presenters at a single meeting we would need more microphones to effectively manage a virtual AND in-person meeting.)
- The Lugnuts are willing for us to attend more than one game. Finalizing dates for Lugnuts games is pending information about pricing.

Insurance Renewal: Insurance renewal was paid the end of November (\$870).

Newman Lofts, Proposal to MSURA: See notes under Past President's Report, Related Issue.

MSU Human Resources (Dan Mackey)

- The building will not be closed, at this point in time.
- Most employees are still working largely remotely. Meetings with The Solutions Center are by appointment only. A phone is available in the HR building in event that anyone not knowing this arrives with questions for the solution center.

Welcome New Retirees Letters (Angie Brown)

The next set of letters will be sent out around spring break; welcome letters will be sent out about three times per year. Pam follows up with all who respond by sending an email and providing info requested, particularly about Special Interest groups. Discussion ensued about how else we might follow up in a more proactive way: host a bagel / coffee event at the Harrison HR building?; plan an event for September when COVID rates for new reported cases will be lower? Rick Vogt proposed setting up a committee to explore what might be possible, particularly for recruiting volunteers post-COVID; this meeting will perhaps be via Zoom.

Related issue: Less than a dozen responses have been received since the last mailing. In those, two people indicated an interest in knowing more about the retiree association and one indicated an interest in board or committee activities.

Scholarship Publicity Article for MSE Employee Groups (Angie Brown)

Angie is working on article, due out in March, with objective of increasing the number and diversity of candidates for the MSURA Scholarship. Benjamin Brown is contact in Scholarship office. The scholarship subcommittee will meet to choose best three candidates after applications are received the beginning of April. To help in the selection process, they will contact the admissions office for more information about the candidates.

Related issues:

- Looking forward we must be more proactive about reaching out to more groups so as to attract a more diverse group of applicants.
- Should we fund a fourth scholarship? Or should we increase the one time award to \$3,000?

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

A decision about whether the meeting will be in-person or virtual must be made by March. Pam Marcis will contact The University Club to get answers about: the minimum number of people required to attend to avoid a penalty; the last date at which we might cancel to avoid a penalty (Is it April 11?); the maximum penalty; and any other contract stipulations in place to hold an event at The University Club. The Annual Meeting Subcommittee should meet and be prepared to make a recommendation at the February meeting.

Related issues:

- Again, we must find ways to engage / re-engage retirees.
- Several individuals must be kept informed about our final decision: Alan Haller; scholarship winners and their parents; recipient of the MSURA Volunteer Award.
- Cheryl Pell is still on board to design a new registration form for the 2022 annual meeting. This will be included in the February / March newsletter.

Bus Tours, Planning (Pam Marcis)

On hold

Retiree Meals on Campus (Mike Gardner)

On hold

Communications / Underwriters (Rick Vogt, Cheryl Pell)

Spartan Spotlight Article, People Needed: Who should be spotlighted in our newsletter? We should all provide ideas.

Email for Communications Team Use: Rick will work with John Forsyth and Dan Mackey to investigate / set up.

Office Management (Liz Thomas)

Empty boxes and hardcopies of old newsletters may be recycled.

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

Per comment under Related issues in Treasurer's Report, funds for equipment will be kept in the budget for now.

Membership – Special Interest Groups (Pam Marcis)

No report.

Other Items:

No new items

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 am; next meeting, February 9, 2022, 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Wight, Secretary, MSURA

January 11, 2022