

MSURA Board Meeting minutes: September 8, 2021, 10 am, Via Zoom

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

Called to Order: 10:01 am

Minutes for April 28, 2021 meeting approved.

Minutes for annual meeting on May 3, 2021 approved.

President's Report (Rick Vogt)

LSJ article, MSU Healthcare with Henry Ford: Article does not apply to the retiree Humana programs. An e-notice that was included in last newsletter addresses this.

Healthcare Insurance, Balance Billing Retirees: We are in a period of transition as providers adapt to working with Humana. Question bills you are in doubt about. Providers are still trying to figure out how to bill charges through Humana. Humana has provided tips on dealing with questionable bills. HR is aware and they can also help retirees with questionable bills. Tips for dealing with billing questions will be included in a future newsletter.

FRIB tours: Three tours are full, each with 30 people. Rick is working on a fourth tour.

Straightline Financial Planning Session, Sept 15th: Meeting will be virtual.

Big Ten Retirees Association Conference 2021: Plans not finalized. Meeting may likely be virtual.

Rick proposed that we continue to hold meetings virtually. Roger Baldwin suggested that we offer both options (virtual and physically present) for meetings. Conference Rm 125 (not a very large room) does have a big screen and Dan Mackey would be happy to help with connections. October board meeting will be virtual. October membership meeting that will discuss open enrollment for 2022 healthcare benefits will be virtual.

Vice President's Report (Neelam Kher)

2021 – 2022 Programs: Membership meeting speakers have been confirmed through April. However, Neelam received notice that a replacement must be found for December speaker. Program committee will meet to determine replacement. Perhaps new athletic director? Mike Gardner will contact athletic director, and ask about December vs. May preference. Pending outcome of his request, speakers for the December membership and May annual meetings must be found.

Past President's Report (Roger Baldwin)

MSURA Scholarship Fundraising Committee: \$47,134 is currently pledged as of the end of August. Balance in endowment fund account is \$137,789.16. Marco has written two articles. Roger will contact Dan about interest in writing article. Roger will explore with committee possible incentives. Fundraising committee must resolve what focus of articles to be written should be, so as to move the campaign forward.

Quilt donated by Quilters subcommittee was posted on Facebook and was sold for \$125, to Jacqie Babcock. Check was sent directly to scholarship fund via development website (learned after minutes were submitted).

AROHE Conference, October 12th – 14th: Roger will give names of the four interested in the conference to Cindy. Roger will process the registrations which must be done through FEA. The cost is \$90 per person at membership rate.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Brower)

Review / Approve April, May and August Financial Statements:

Revenue from newsletter underwriting will be \$9500 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year; through August we have received \$1800, and expect another \$4500 in early September.

Revenues through August 2021 total \$2,853.71. Expenses total \$2,961.74, mainly for mass printing and mailing of August / September newsletter. Expenses exceeded revenue by \$108.03.

Total funds available as of August 31 are \$ 38,328.18.

Endowment balance is \$137,789.16.

Our income balance is \$11,078.55. Balance is enough to fund the three scholarships approved earlier, without taking money out of operating funds.

Approve Budget for 2021-2022 fiscal year: Budget presented. Dave proposes revenues and expenses each totaling \$15,900. The \$1,025 that appears under contingency under expenses is to cover our cost to pay students for articles that we may decide to have written particularly to support our endowed scholarship program.

\$2,000 proposed to be added to expenses for equipment to broadcast membership meetings for 2021–2022 year. Dave will add a line, "Equipment", to the proposed budget. Budget will be submitted with revenues of \$15,900 and expenses totaling \$17,900.

Dave moved, John seconded motion to approve budget with changes as proposed. Budget was approved.

Request for funding MSU students to write for the newsletter:

Rick requested \$400 for student written articles during the upcoming year. Motion was made and seconded. \$400 approved. As noted above, this amount is included in Dave's proposed budget as a contingency.

Aside: \$200 was budgeted in April 2021 for two articles. First article highlighting a retiree will appear in October newsletter. A second article is yet to be written.

Rick moved to authorize funding for the registrations for AROHE conference. Motion was seconded and approved.

Annual Meeting, May 2, 2020 – MSU University Club (Liz Thomas and Pam Marcis)

Contract signed by Dave and Pam. Committee will meet in January. Pam will need to initiate paperwork for the meeting in late November / December. She will be able to get entry to the 1407 So Harrison Rd Building (HR).

John, Liz and Cheryl will resolve issue about new letterhead address for the HR building.

Lunches (Mike Gardner)

Meal get together: Mike Gardner will resolve with committee where and when. Limited menus, staffing shortages are an issue. He proposes that nothing definite will be planned before February.

Bus Tours, Planning (Pam Marcis):

Bus tours on hold for now.

Michigan Historical Museum is a possibility for an outing. They need at least three weeks' notice. They do two tours a day. Planning time is needed. Lunch is a possibility following tour. February may be earliest time for scheduling anything.

MSU Human Resources, Benefits Open Enrollment (Dan Mackey)

No changes in benefits for the upcoming year. Open enrollment month is October. Benefits fair will be in person and virtual, week of October 11th.

Re: vaccinations – Vaccination services will go over to the pharmacy. Vaccination type determines whether patient will be charged -- whether Medicare B or Medicare D.

All MSU students, staff and faculty must be vaccinated. Exceptions are allowed. Process is ongoing.

HR changes: Only one person is now handling all retirees. Staffing is short in other areas as well, with positions open at the top as well as throughout HR.

Communications / Underwriters (Rick Vogt and Cheryl Pell)

Newsletter underwriters for 2021 – 2022: College of Music not signed on but will be advertised in October newsletter in hopes that they will be able to underwrite us next year.

MsuraEditors@msu.edu address: Rick will explore with Cheryl, John and Anders if we want to get this new email address set up.

MSURA Logo for communications: Cheryl Pell will send the logo to all in jpg format.

Office Management (Liz Thomas)

Thanks to Dave Brower for office coverage. It will be at least the end of the year before a request is made to cover the office on a more regular basis. Liz will attempt to make weekly visits to check emails and other correspondence. Liz proposed using a template for correspondence to save printing costs for stationery with MSURA letterhead.

MSURA Technology, Website, Facebook (John Forsyth and Anders Johanson)

msura@msu.edu email account:

Dave noted that the board member email list has not been updated with new board members. John will update.

Rick will attempt to confirm that all email addresses are in the contact list.

Other Items: No new items

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 am

Next meeting: October 6, 2021, 10 am

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Wight, Secretary, MSURA

October 3, 2021; revised October 5, 2021