

## Minutes -MSU Retirees Association

November 4, 2020 – Via Zoom

**Attending:** Jacqueline Babcock, Roger Baldwin, Dave Brower, Angela Brown, John Forsyth, Mike Gardner, Pam Marcis, Bruce Smith, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt

President Baldwin called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

**Minutes (J. Babcock):** John Forsyth moved and Rick Vogt seconded the minutes of the October 2020 meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

**President's Report (R. Baldwin):** A committee has been meeting to define purposes and means of fundraising for MSURA. The committee is John Forsyth, Dave Brower, Angie Brown, Rick Vogt and Dan Chegwiddden with Roger Baldwin.

The committee is identifying technology needs and looking at increasing the scholarship fund. Under consideration is permanently funding a third scholarship or increasing the amounts for the two scholarships that are already in place. The board would need to raise about \$60,000 to accomplish this. We need to coordinate a publicity strategy to accomplish this goal. We need to make it easier for online donations by linking the direct site in our various communications. Dave Brower will be talking to StraightLine about some matching grants and perhaps bringing in some of their business associates in this effort. MSUFCU will also be contacted.

Mike Gardner is meeting later this month for additional programming for the membership. He is looking at a program on mental health issues during the pandemic such as not seeing family, staying motivated, etc. Bill Anderson and Roger Baldwin are meeting with Claudia Finkelstein in Family Medicine about a possible program on food and fitness during the Pandemic and isolation.

The Volunteer Fair was cancelled in the spring due to the pandemic. Lori Strom has asked if we would be willing to highlight volunteer groups in the newsletter, starting with those who had agreed to participate in the fair. It was discussed that we want to be sure not to advocate any programs that might pose a danger to our members during COVID. Related to this discussion was the proposal that we need to look at our own website and update the volunteer piece. Rick Vogt will talk to Lori about the possibility of an article on volunteerism during COVID.

**Vice President Report (R. Vogt):** Rick reviewed the upcoming monthly programs and the special program with the new Director of the Broad Museum. He reported 280 people were on Zoom for the October meeting on the new benefit program and it included people who are not in the East Lansing area. Bruce Smith pointed out some of these might also be due to viewing the recorded version, but this is positive, as well. Rick is also looking at StraightLine presenting some programming that might be divided up into five 20 minute segments instead of a two-hour presentation. There was support for this but the board also felt a time for Q/A was also important. The Alumni Association also wants to work with MSURA on some potential programming.

Rick also feels we need a policy or guideline of what events we will include in our newsletter and e-news. He receives numerous requests to publicize events. We should also look at how we are disseminating information, design, etc. A group agreed to work on this: Dave Brower, John Forsyth, Roger Baldwin and Cheryl Pell. It was also suggested Carla Freed and Jeannie Croope might be good people to recruit to this effort. Jacqie agreed to contact Jeannie Croope.

**Treasurer's Report (D. Brower):**

October 2020 revenues totaled \$6.98 and expenditures totaled \$535.11, including \$99.85 in postage and \$402.76 in printing costs. Expenditures exceeded revenues in October by \$528.13.

Through October 31, 2020 revenues totaled \$8,932.96 and expenditures totaled \$6,783.50. Net revenues exceed expenditures by \$2,149.46 and the Association's net asset balance at October 31, 2020 was \$40,508.10.

As of October 31, 2020 the MSURA Endowment had a balance of \$116,527.16, an increase of \$125 from the prior month. The income account had a balance of \$7,583.25.

Dave is working in the MSURA Office to input documents on the computer there.

**Scholarships (A. Brown):** Angie has talked to Jim Brown in the Admissions Office about deadlines for next year's applicants. They report applications are still coming in for next year, but the number of applications is lower than in previous years.

**Communications (R. Vogt):** The University is changing the program Rick uses to submit the newsletter for printing and mailing. He will try to use this program but if it is too complicated he may be going direct to the printer. Due to the uncertainty, he and Cheryl hope to have the next newsletter ready earlier. Approximately 2/3 less newsletters are being printed than in previous months, so MSURA will realize some savings.

**Technology (J. Forsyth):** John is working on updating the memory on the computer in the office. There are several technology issues to think about regarding the website such as adding the Notice of Nondiscrimination to the page footers to be compliant with MSU branding and designing an easily accessible page to solicit donations to the scholarship endowment. Angie Brown agreed to assist with the latter.

Rick Vogt commented that permission for special interest group chairs to use the MSU Zoom has been sent by Dan Mackey to IT. We haven't heard back yet.

**Bus Trips (P. Marcis):** Sharon is still in business. She is providing trips with 30 people on a bus with health precautions. Pam wonders if we want to think about a trip for summer or fall 2021. We will wait until we have more information about a vaccine and the pandemic.

**Annual Meeting (P. Marcis and L. Thomas):** Pam will check in with the University Club.

**Office Management (L. Thomas):** Liz is back to a normal routine after her surgery and will be working on updating the MSURA membership database with recent retirees and death notices. She is not recruiting volunteers to staff the office, but thought she would send an email to let individuals know we appreciate them and let them know there are lots of opportunities to interact and volunteer with MSURA. She thanked Dave Brower for covering office needs in her absence.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Submitted by Jacqueline Babcock