

MSU Retirees Association Board Meeting

September 9, 2020 Via Zoom

**Attending:** Bill Anderson, Jacqueline Babcock, Roger Baldwin, Dave Brower, Angela Brown, John Forsyth, Michael Gardner, Anders Johanson, Dan Mackey, Pam Marcis, Cheryl Pell, Bruce Smith, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt

**Approval of Minutes (J. Babcock):** Pam Marcis moved the June 3, 2020 minutes be approved. Angela Brown seconded. Passed unanimously.

**President's Report (R. Baldwin):** Nisbet Building remains closed during the pandemic. Roger confirmed those approved for entry are Rick Vogt, Dave Brower, John Forsyth and himself. Liz Thomas will be approved, as well. Please contact one of these board members for assistance if you need access to the MSURA office.

**Vice President's Report (R. Vogt):** The Monday membership meeting is ready to meet with Zoom on Monday. Other opportunities for different kinds of meeting experiences are being explored. We will try to track if meeting via Zoom brings in members who aren't local to the East Lansing area. There will be a short survey at the end. E-Notices are scheduled for Friday. Cheryl and Rick will begin work on the October newsletter end of the week. It will be a smaller newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report (D. Brower):** August 2020 revenues totaled \$3,806.57, including \$3,800 in underwriting revenues (Straightline \$2,000 and HR \$1,800). Expenditures totaled \$72.89, so that revenues exceeded expenditures in August by \$3,733.78.

For FY20-21 revenues to date totaled \$3,999.40 and expenditures totaled \$2,589.29. Net revenues exceed expenditures by \$1,410.11 and the Association's net asset balance at August 31, 2020 was \$39,768.75.

As of August 31, 2020 the MSURA Endowment had a balance of \$116,302.16, an increase of \$600 from the prior month. The income account had a balance of \$6,333.26, which includes \$5,125.34 in anticipated income for FY20-21 and is net of \$3,750 deducted for the first half of the three scholarship awards for FY 20-21. The income account does not include the \$2,500 MSURA check sent to fund the 3<sup>rd</sup> one-time scholarship, which was deposited by MSU in August.

Dave presented the proposed budget for 2020-2021. Dave moved the budget be approved. Jacqie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Due to less income during the pandemic with less underwriting funding and limited opportunity for fundraising it was suggested we not mail two years of newsletters to recent retirees effective immediately. This could cut printing and mailing costs by up to 50%. Rick made the motion and John Forsyth seconded. Passed unanimously. It was clarified by Angie that the August/September newsletter will continue to be sent to all members and anyone who requests newsletters by mail will be able to do so. We need to make this new policy visible to

members. Roger suggested savings could perhaps be used for small group gatherings or lunches to encourage new retirees to become active and volunteer with MSURA.

Liz suggested we not send out the welcome packet to new retirees hard copy as an additional savings. We could send it electronically instead as a cost reduction. Liz moved this policy and John seconded. In discussion Roger felt that it is too easy to ignore emails and we did just revise and print new membership brochures. It was decided to table the motion and hold discussion at a future board meeting.

Roger would also like MSURA to consider sending a representative to the 2021 AROHE (Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education) national conference. We could use money we did not spend in 2020 because the annual Big Ten Retirees Association Conference was canceled due to Covid-19. Perhaps we could partner with the MSU emeriti faculty group. It might be a good way to broaden our focus.

### **Follow up Discussion Retreat Priorities**

Roger reminded board members that we urgently need to recruit new leadership. Individual contact with new or non-involved retirees may be most effective. Each MSURA Board member is asked to send him the names of 1-3 retirees we could reach out to.

Some of the other priorities were already discussed as part of the budget discussion and programming. We will be working on additional education, social, and wellness events as well as fundraising, diversity initiatives, and succession planning over the next several months. Roger or other board members will be setting up meetings to move these various projects forward. Please let Roger know if you are willing to work on any of these activities.

**MSURA Scholarships (A. Brown):** Angie will connect with the scholarship recipients to see how they are doing. Maybe there would be a short article for the newsletter.

**Volunteer of the Year Award (J. Babcock):** The awards will be announced at the membership meeting next week. The two recipients will be notified ahead of time due to the technical aspects of Zoom for this meeting.

**HR/Benefits (D. Mackey):** The open enrollment guides will be sent end of September. Humana will also send a welcome kit. Retirees will automatically be enrolled in the new program. The Benefits Fair will be virtual this year.

**Office Management (L. Thomas):** Dave and Roger will cover the office as needed while Liz is out of state.

**Special Interest Groups (P. Marcis):** Pam is contacting group coordinators to see if they are interested in being connected to Zoom.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Jacqueline Babcock