

Special Board Meeting MSURA

June 3, 2020, via Zoom

Attending: William Anderson, Jacqueline Babcock, Roger Baldwin, Dave Brower, Angela Brown, John Forsyth, Dan Mackey (HR), Pam Marcis, Cheryl Pell, Bruce Smith, Liz Thomas, Rick Vogt

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Baldwin soon after 10:00 am.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2020 board meeting. Passed unanimously.

President's Report (Roger Baldwin): Roger thanked Bill Anderson for his work on the election via Qualtrics with John Williamson. There was discussion about holding the annual election electronically in future years because more people were able to participate.

Pam Marcis moved we propose a by-law change at the annual meeting to elect officers electronically. Rick Vogt suggested we need a committee to put together a proposal for the annual meeting to change the bylaws. This was supported by the members present.

Roger confirmed the board retreat will take place on August 26 either in person or via Zoom.

Planning for Fall: We likely cannot have in person monthly meetings in the fall so what can we do to present meaningful programming? Roger had sent out a pre-meeting survey of four categories for what we might do for our members. People stay connected to people, not organizations. People will be more likely to come back to the organization when the pandemic is over if they have these personal connections. We can also post information on a website. If we go with programming via Zoom we will need to provide support to members.

Should MSURA have their own Zoom account? We are working on this.

Rick Vogt reported he is looking at education and entertainment type programs. We do have Dan Mackey and the MSU Pharmacy for presentations next fall. He is also thinking about a virtual tour of the Broad Art Museum or other museums.

Dan Mackey updated the group on Zoom. The current MSU Zoom contract lists an employee, student contractor, volunteer in the Zoom contract. There is some push back to approve an affiliate organization. Dan has shared the MSURA request and our contributions to the University and he is waiting for an answer as to whether we can be approved. Other organizations are asking for this, as well, so it is a difficult issue for the University.

Programming suggestions for 2020-2021:

Autonomous automobiles

Travel

Historical photos of MSU campus

Military history

Genealogy – how to research

Food and cooking

IM sports facilities

Virtual museum visit

Exercise classes online

Speaker from the historical museum downtown.

Have a museum presentation online and maybe follow up with a visit in person for those who feel comfortable with gathering in person.

Watch a movie and a discussion following

Zoom theatre? How do we support the arts? Music?

Technology support: video about how to access and use zoom. The programming committee will figure this out.

Physical rehab – Mary Thiel Works with older patients – talk about losing the quarantine 15

Vaccine – how do they get developed? MSU has a number of people – testing

Some of these topics could be monthly meetings and some special events. We had already planned to schedule one or two social events or experiences each semester along with the monthly meetings.

Roger pointed out the Alumni Office memo indicating they are sending “care packages” to incoming students and asking if MSURA members would be willing to help write welcome notes. The board agreed this is an important activity and the letter will be included in the e-notices.

Vice-President’s and Newsletter Editor Reports (Rick Vogt): Rick reported we will have a trial on July 8, 10:00 am to demonstrate what a programming session might look like. It will take place via Zoom.

Underwriters: Rick proposed a holiday with a discount or free for this year to keep our underwriters interested for future years. The University is putting employees on furloughs and some may be permanently laid off. There are permanent budget cuts of about 3%. We are aware of financial difficulties and could continue to provide information in our e-notices and newsletters. This is especially relevant to the Broad Art Museum and the College of Music. We might offer HR and Development up to a reduction of 25%. It is important to keep them in the budget line because once a budget line disappears it is difficult to get back.

Rick reported MSURA is also trying to reduce expenses by not sending out hard copies of the newsletter to as many people. It was also suggested to not send the newsletter to new retirees. This will be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

Dave Brower made a motion that MSURA departmental underwriters be offered a discount of up to 50%. Pam Marcis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rick mentioned a request to place an item e-notices. He receives a lot of outside and organization requests. There is a group helping retirees with pocket expenses but they wanted some personal

information up front to apply and he is hesitant to open up the door. We don't want any of our members to be defrauded. He has declined to post this request.

Other Announcements: Dave reported there will be no outreach to members to sign up for the August Lugnuts game. Their season is undecided. We can get people to go at the last minute if the game is scheduled. A \$185 deposit has been made.

Volunteer Award: Jacqie sent a pre-meeting memo to the board asking for direction for this nomination for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. There is a committee: Roger Baldwin, Angie Brown, Patrick Scheetz, Ron Smith and Jacqie Babcock as chair. We also have three nominations for this year's award. This discussion was put on hold until the nominations committee can meet and develop guidelines and bring a proposal to the board.

Dan Mackey reported HR has been very busy working with furloughs and paid time off, etc. He did distribute a draft letter to be sent to retirees informing them of the new health plan starting January 2021. The intent of the letter is to announce this change to retirees. There will be information meetings prior to the enrollment period.

Re: the new auto insurance health law which is going into effect July 1, 2020. The MSU retiree health plan is secondary to an auto insurance or Medicare plan. Medicare is secondary to car insurance as well, as of today. MSU is looking into making MSU the health plan primary when it comes to car insurance.

There are reports of people using retirees to obtain unemployment which is, essentially, identity theft. The State of MI webpage has information on what to do if this happens to an individual. If an individual is still working and this happens they need to work with MSU on it. MSU does not provide information or process unemployment claims but they work with the State to provide information.

The meeting was adjourned 11:58 am.

Submitted by Jacqueline Babcock

MSURA secretary