UMKC RETIREES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 1, 2013, 9:00-11:00, Gillham Park Room

Members Present: Pat Hovis-French, Denny Schemmel, Dick Hetherington, Merton Shatzkin, Ron MacQuarrie, Nancy Mills, Ted Sheldon, Marvin Querry, Mary Anne Morgenegg, Dale Neuman, Charles Volk, Linda Edwards, Leo Sweeney, Rita Messina

Members Absent: John Ditto, Jennifer Martin, Reaer Shannon, Jane Vogl, Kim Rudolph

President Hovis-French called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Minutes of the February 2013 Board Meeting had been previously circulated by email. At the meeting, paper copies of the minutes were distributed to all those present and were approved (Schemmel/Mills).

Committee Reports

Treasurer’s Report – Ted Sheldon, Treasurer
Ted distributed a written report. The report included the balance sheet and income and expense accounts as of March 31, 2013. Ted reported a reduction in the operating account but stated that there was an increase in the investment account. He reviewed the accounts and reported that the Chancellor’s contribution is due in July. He pointed out that the big difference in revenue from last year to this year is a lower balance in the membership account. He reported that the UMKCRA Scholarship Fund account will be set up when he receives the correct account number. It was suggested that he contact Jenea Oliver for assistance with the account number.

Finance Committee – Ted Sheldon, Chair
Ted submitted a written report. The Finance Committee met on April 17, 2013, with Ted Sheldon, Charles Volk, and Merton Shatzkin in attendance. The meeting involved an explanation of how UMKCRA funds are handled now that Association monies are in University accounts. Ted explained that Carla Heins handles the bookkeeping and that he is the manager of UMKCRA funds. Ted stated that monies go directly to Carla and that she also handles the distribution of funds. Additionally, Carla reconciled UMKCRA’s fiscal year with the University’s fiscal year in the PeopleSoft Accounting System.

As part of the finance committee meeting, Merton was charged with leading an ad hoc subcommittee to review the Association By-laws and Constitution regarding the treasurer’s responsibilities. Also addressed in the revision was how Association funds should be handled if the Association should close. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of the publication of the revisions in the newsletter. The revised text was presented as part of the Finance Committee’s report (additional details appear on page 3 of this report under Other Business).
Benefits Committee – Ron MacQuarrie, Chair
A written report was submitted and distributed. Ron reported on the University Retirement Fund, enumerating the basic principles used in managing the Fund, as well as the investment objectives in the management of Trust assets. He stated that over the last ten years the average investment return has been 8.4% per year; the basic goal is an 8% return. The consensus is that the Fund is well managed. Ron stated there will be updates in the future. Discussion ensued regarding the increase needed in funds to give retirees a 1% increase. It was stated that retiree increases probably won’t occur soon because faculty/staff salary increases must come first when funds are available. The general consensus was that the last 1% increase for retirees occurred sometime around the years of 2005 – 2007.

Communications Committee – Dale Neuman, Chair
A written report of the Communications Committee was distributed. Dale reported that Marty Hatten had resigned from the Communications Committee for health reasons, but that there are reports she may be able to return sometime in the future. The Communications Committee met on April 15, 2013, with Dale Neuman, Merton Shatzkin, and Rita Messina in attendance. In this meeting, the group scanned the February 2013 newsletter, looking for ways to make it better and ideas for future issues. Dale asked the board for guidance in regard to an “In Memoriam” column for the newsletter. He stated that a list of members who have recently passed away is unavailable from the Retiree Benefits Office in Columbia, and that without an official list there is the possibility mistakes could occur. Dale stated the policy should be that a published obituary must be available to verify the report of a retiree’s passing. A disclaimer could be added regretting having missed those names that could not be verified. The “In Memoriam” column could be a recurring feature in the newsletter, and/or a link on the website.

Membership Committee – Leo Sweeney, Chair
A written report was submitted and distributed, Leo reported that the Membership Committee met on April 3, 2013, to discuss lapsed memberships, and to discuss liaison with the Program Committee towards developing programs that will draw more members. Other topics included plans to mail postcards to lapsed members and discussion regarding the implementation of an automatic membership policy, as currently utilized by the UMKC Alumni Association. Leo reported that follow up has resulted in at least two calls from lapsed members; one person asked about using a credit card for payment of dues. After checking with Kim Rudolph, Leo reported that payment of dues by credit card is acceptable. Leo stated that a meeting will be scheduled in May with several UMKCRA committees, as well as Lisen Tammeus, to discuss the Alumni Association’s experience with automatic memberships.

Discussion ensued about acquiring a list of retirees’ names and addresses each year. Apparently, there is an area on the retirement form that when checked, restricts usage of retiree information. A suggestion was made that HR could send letters on behalf of UMKCRA to recent retirees, letting them know of the existence of the UMKC Retiree Association and how to connect with the group. UMKCRA would pay for these mailings. President Hovis-French will follow-up with HR in regard to requesting a list of retirees.
Program Committee – John Ditto, Chair
No report. Mary Anne Morgenegg stated that the Program Committee is working with Dr. Richard Gentile about a presentation scheduled for a time in August. Notification will be sent to members when a date has been selected. The Program Committee was commended for the success of the Spring Luncheon and the outstanding program.

Nominations Committee – Denny Schemmel, Chair
A written report was submitted. Denny stated that the Nominations Committee was planning to meet immediately following the Board Meeting on May 1, 2013. Discussion will include the timing of nominations, as well as seeking increased diversity on the Board. The Board was invited to identify possible nominees. It was also suggested that if committee members are not currently board members, they could be considered. Dale will work with Denny on an article for the newsletter to encourage nominations.

Recognition Committee – Denny Schemmel, Chair
A written report was submitted. Denny stated that the Recognition Committee met prior to the Board Meeting on May 1, 2013. He also stated that documents used for nominations are being reviewed and revised to make the process more consistent. Revised documentation will be added to the website. Dale mentioned that candidates from retired staff should be sought. Marvin discussed the possibility of an additional award for retirees involved in community service. Denny expects that at least one candidate for next year’s Recognitions Award will be presented.

Volunteer Committee – Reaner Shannon, Chair
No Report

Other Business

Ad Hoc Sub-Committee – Merton Shatzkin
A written report was submitted. Merton Shatzkin and Ted Sheldon met to review and revise amendments to the constitution and the by-laws of UMKCRA. Copies of the proposals were distributed to board members and proposed changes were explained. Changes to the Constitution affect the Membership Section in Article III by expanding and clarifying the types of memberships in the Association. Changes to By-Laws affect the duties of the Treasurer, as well as the designation and clarification of membership descriptions in the Finance, Membership, and Program Committees. Changes to the Constitution in Article IX Dissolution, clarifies the distribution of Association funds should the Association be dissolved.
A question was raised as to membership eligibility of former UMKC employees who were vested when they left the University but had not reached retirement age at the time of their departure. It is believed that this situation was discussed and agreed upon at a previous meeting. A search of the archived minutes will be done and previously approved wording will be added to Section 4 of Article III of the Constitution. A motion was made and seconded to accept the bold-faced changes to the Constitution and By-Laws and seconded (Shatzkin/Sweeney). The motion was unanimously approved.
80th Anniversary Plans – Nancy Mills
Nancy reported on three separate events that will involve UMKCRA:

1. Reception (Sept 30?). For former chancellors, deans, etc., as well as UMKCRA members. Library venue in the afternoon. No cost to UMKCRA

2. Breakfast for retirees, 7:30-9:00 event on Founder’s Day, Oct 1st. Speaker will talk of transition from UKC to UMKC. All retirees or just UMKCRA? Mailing? Will this be a cost or will University subsidize? Information could be sent in August newsletter to UMKCRA members only. Or could go out to all retirees, but would incur extra postage and print costs.

3. Oral History. Committee working on event/activities that will serve to encourage former campus leaders to record their past experiences at UKC/UMKC. Maybe Emeritus College can be involved. Committee considering where to set up and how to structure?

The committee will meet on August 8th. Nancy will send details to Dale for the newsletter.

Leadership Meeting with President Wolfe on May 8th – Pat Hovis-French
Mary Anne Morgenegg and Ron MacQuarrie will represent UMKCRA.

Talking points:
- List of retirees who have passed away
- Benefits (1% increase)
- Senate Bill – What is the implication for University and retirees, if passed.
- What is President Wolfe’s view of TV ads for online courses advertised by Western Governors University?

Dale requested notes from the meeting for the newsletter.

Retirees Campaign – Nancy Mills
Nancy reports that the committee will meet on May 10th.

Several proposals have gone out trying to gain donations for the campaign. Over 50% has been met, most for scholarships in academic units under the retirees group, and also funds for the Emeritus College for needed space revisions. There are proposals that families are considering but there are no details available at this time. There will be updates in the future.

Emeritus College – Nancy Mills
A Dean has been selected. An Advisory Board has been invited; most have responded as to whether they will participate. Once the Advisory Board is set, a letter will go out naming the Dean and the Advisory Board membership. Diane Smathers, a recent speaker from the Emeritus College at Clemson, talked about what their Emeritus College has done. Clemson has no retirees association.

President Hovis-French requested volunteer hours from the Board for their time volunteered time from January through May, 2013.

Next meeting, August 14, 9-11 am. Meeting room TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am (Edwards/Sheldon)
Respectfully submitted,

Rita Messina
UMKCRA Secretary