UMKC RETIREES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
August 14, 2013, 9:00-11:00, Brookside Room

**Members Present:** Pat Hovis-French, Reaner Shannon, Marvin Querry, Linda Edwards, Mary Anne Morgenegg, Nancy Mills, Denny Schemmel, Leo Sweeney, Merton Shatzkin, Ron MacQuarrie, Ted Sheldon, Jennifer Martin, Rita Messina

**Members Absent:** John Ditto, Jane Vogl, Charles Volk, Kim Rudolph

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

**Announcements:** President Hovis-French mentioned the Regalia Run, as part of Founders’ Week activities, and that the scholarship from this year’s run is designated for the scholarship in Ron MacQuarrie’s name.

**Guests:** Lisen Tammeus, Jo Ellen Wurth, Curt Crespino

President Hovis-French introduced Lisen Tammeus, Jo Ellen Wurth, and Curt Crespino who gave details on the Chancellor’s plan to establish conversations with retirees and various other constituents on campus and in the community.

Curt Crespino began his remarks by mentioning the opening of two new buildings on campus and the installation of a new Bloch sculpture being placed outside the new Bloch Executive Hall. He then related that the Chancellor has asked Advancement to lead a concept that would bring together all existing organizations and entities within the campus and connect them with retirees. One initiative being led on campus is the “Aging Consortium” a coming together of all UMKC’s Health Sciences schools, the College, and the Business School, and looking at how we’re working with and providing services to the senior population. Besides that work, the campus has had initiatives such as the Cockefair Chair and the Emeritus College. The Chancellor would like to see leadership that will pull these groups together to enhance the work that is currently going on but does not duplicate the same work. Curt mentioned that there is national funding for such initiatives from sources such as the Osher Foundation. In the past, funding from the Osher Foundation has provided undergraduate student support. The Osher Foundation also supports life-long learning opportunities; MU and KU both have life-long learning endowment support from Osher. Curt also announced that a new Vice-Provost for Distance Learning has been hired. Lisen will send details to Dale Neuman for the newsletter.

Minutes of the May 1, 2013 Board Meeting had been circulated previously by email. At the meeting, paper copies of the minutes were distributed to all those present and were approved (Schemmel/Edwards).

**Committee Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report – Ted Sheldon, Treasurer**

Ted distributed a written report. The report included the balance sheet, income and expense accounts as of June 30, 2013. August reports have been delayed because of the University
fiscal year closing. He reported that returns on the investment account amounts to an 8.6%. The Operating account is in good shape. However, revenue from Membership dues is less than budgeted. Regarding the UMKCRA Scholarship account, one-half of the $5,000 pledged amount will be transferred from the Operating Account in August. It was decided that timing of the transfer of the remaining $2,500 could be discussed later in the meeting. It was also suggested that the remaining $2,500 could be taken from the Investment pool. No decision was made at this time regarding the remainder of the pledged sum. The report was accepted by consensus.

It was pointed out that the Board will need to develop criteria for distribution of the UMKCRA Scholarship Award in Fall 2014. Linda Edwards agreed to head the sub-committee.

**Finance Committee – Ted Sheldon, Chair**
No written report.

**Benefits Committee – Ron MacQuarrie, Chair**
No written report. Ron stated that he’d done an informal survey of other retiree groups’ benefits to see how UMKC compares. He reported that almost all retiree associations across the country have about the same benefits and stated that UMKC appears to be in the mainstream. However, KU offers free burial for faculty members (KU has a cemetery).

**Communications Committee – Dale Neuman, Chair**
A written report was distributed. The committee did not meet but exchanged emails regarding the effectiveness and functionality of UMKCRA website. Comments were made regarding some existing problems and possible solutions. There appears to be several versions of the website, depending on how the site is accessed: from the UMKC main page, the UMKC alphabetic listing, etc. Suggestions were made as to how to help Kim keep the site up to date.

**Membership Committee – Leo Sweeney, Chair**
A written report was submitted. Leo reported that membership as of May 2013 totaled 309: 209 lifetime, 97 annual, and 3 pre-retiree members (counted as annual). A recent postcard follow up on lapsed members reduced the lapsed group from 96 to 53. Leo responded to comments regarding a drop in dues revenue. He pointed out that to meet the current budget needs, an increase of 75% in new annual membership dues and an increase of 10.5% in lifetime membership dues would be needed, and he wonders if that amount of increase is realistic. Leo stated a reported figure of 4300 retired UMKC faculty and staff, and that a reasonable percentage of that group has never joined the retirees association. Leo suggested that a drop in membership could signify that new retirees may not find the retirees association attractive. He reported that the UMKC Alumni Association had a similar experience and decided to revamp their program, benefits, organizational structure, etc., to attract new members, an effort that significantly changed the Alumni Association, and though not instantaneous, resulted in increased membership, additional events, and increased attendance at activities. Leo suggested an in-depth analysis of the entire structure of the retirees association should be looked into for ways to improve it and make it more attractive. It was suggested that a taskforce could be set up to assist the Membership Committee with this effort. Taskforce members include Mary Anne Morgenegg, Ron MacQuarrie, Merton Shatzkin, Linda Edwards, Dick Hetherington, and Leo Sweeney. Some of the questions the group could consider: what
does the association want to be, what kind of programs should be offered that will attract members, and what do we think potential members need and/or want. It was also suggested that the Retirees Association could sponsor an event, via the Provost’s office, for people who are retiring, to inform them about the association.

Program Committee – John Ditto, Chair
No report. Mary Anne Morgenegg stated that JoAnn and Dan Jaffe will offer a program of music and poetry on November 1st at Diastole from 2:00-4:00 p.m. A postcard announcement will be sent. A reminder was also given regarding a talk by Dr. Richard Gentile on fossil hunting in the Badlands. His presentation is scheduled for Friday morning, August 15, 10:00 am, 302 Flarsheim Hall.

Nominations Committee – Denny Schemmel, Chair
A written report was submitted. Denny presented nominations, thus giving ample time to disseminate the information in the August newsletter before the election at the December luncheon and meeting. The slate is as follows: Lora Lacy-Haun for President-Elect; Ted Sheldon for Treasurer; Merton Shatzkin, Bob Piepho, and Brenda Faskin for three-year term board members. Nominee biographies for new board members were included in the report and will be listed in the August newsletter. The slate was approved (Sweeney/Mills).

Recognition Committee – Denny Schemmel, Chair
A written report was submitted. Denny reported that the Recognitions Committee met in May and that a few minor changes were made to the nominating forms. The committee has identified two candidates, one faculty and one staff member. The committee is currently processing applications, nominations, references, and paperwork in preparation for identification of nominees at the November meeting. The general membership will vote at the December meeting and awards will be given at the April luncheon.

Volunteer Committee – Reaner Shannon, Chair
A written report was submitted. Reaner reported that she has been in contact with the Alumni office to get information and feedback. The Alumni office has identified two events that are viable volunteering activities: the legislative trip to Jefferson City and the “Home for the Holidays” program. The “Move-in Day” project amounts to handing out water to students and is not a practical volunteer exercise. Reaner had planned a conference call with her committee to discuss strategies. However, she could not contact one member and was told by the other two members that they were no longer serving in that capacity. Needless to say, the conference call did not occur. Information about the legislative trip and “Home for the Holidays” will be listed on the UMKCRA website by September.

Leo mentioned that within the last two years, on the first day of classes, there were tables in the Quad where a staff person, a student, and a retiree passed out information and gave directions to incoming students. He wondered if this was still occurring. It was suggested that Jennifer Dehaemers in Student Affairs might be able to identify additional activities where retirees can be of assistance.
Other Business

UM Retirees Association Leaders Summer Meeting

Mary Anne Morgenegg reported on the summer meeting. A written report was submitted that included information on the Emeritus College and updates on retiree groups in the UM System. Remarks from President Wolfe focused on HB 253 that voiced his concerns about the economic impact on the University if the bill passes. A copy of Talking Points on HB253 was distributed to the board and information about the bill will be publicized in the August newsletter.

Updates: Retirees Campaign, Emeritus College, 80th Anniversary Celebration – Nancy Mills

Nancy Mills reported that the Retirees Campaign received approximately $3,400 from the spring mailing this year.
Nancy reported that fund raising for the Emeritus College space has reached more than $90,000 toward its goal of $160,000. She stated that remodeling for the Emeritus College space will begin in October, with a goal of completion by April or May of 2014. Board members for the Emeritus College were announced: President, Bibie Chronwell. Emeritus/ae faculty: Charles Cobb, Linda Edwards, Nancy Mills, Leon Roberson, and Charles Wurrey.

Nancy reported on UMKC’s 80th anniversary celebration. She stated that postcards have gone out to all retirees about a reception on September 30th in the Miller Nichols Library. Yearbooks from UKC and UMKC will be on display, as well as a video. An event for the Retirees Association will be held on October 1st from 7:30-9:00 am in the Student Success Center, Pierson Auditorium. Following the breakfast, the 80th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony will be held in Swinney Recreation Center. Nancy states that the committee is in the process of deciding whether to collect oral histories as part of the celebration.

President Hovis-French requested volunteer hours from the Board for their time volunteered from January 1 through August 14, 2013. Next meeting, November 6, 9-11 am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am (Edwards/Shatzkin).

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Messina
UMKCRA Secretary