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May 26, 2015

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UMRA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes*

*Boldface indicates follow-up actions to be taken

Present: Carl Adams, John Adams, John Anderson, Roger Clemence, Joanne Eicher, Jean Kinsey, Van Linck, Ted Litman, Rod Loper, Julie Medbery, Hal Miller, David Naumann, Donna Peterson, Paul Quie, Richard Skaggs

Other: Virginia Hanson, Newsletter editor; Earl Nolting, co-chair, Cares Committee; Dale Swanson, Vice Chair, Health Benefits Advisory Committee

Hal Miller convened the meeting; thanked Rod Loper for serving 12 years as representatives for the Health Benefits Advisory Committee. Rod introduced Dale Swanson, who is replacing him.

Minutes (attachment): Julie Medbery: Two changes: under Relationships with the University, add "s" to "president"; under Membership Committee, change 110 to 100 and add after "signed up": "to receive an email with the retirement kit (Ginny Hanson). Moved, seconded to accept as amended. Motion carried. Miller thanked Medbery for serving four years as secretary.

Bylaws: Medbery: Proposed changes to the bylaws will be sent to the Board for discussion before the September 2015 meeting. Membership will vote at the October meeting.

Treasurer's Report (attachment): Richard Skaggs: Expects to add about \$1700 to the final balance in contributions. The May and annual reports will be noted in the September newsletter and posted on the UMRA website. Miller thanked Skaggs for five years of service as treasurer.

Nominating Committee Report Revision (handout): John Adams, committee chair, reporting for the committee (John Anderson, Hal Miller, Gayle Graham Yates, Nancy Helmich): one more Board member will be needed in addition to the slate accepted at the April meeting, because Carl Adams has accepted the nomination for treasurer. The slate now reads: Donna Peterson, president-elect; Chip Peterson, secretary; Carol Adams, treasurer; Steve Benson and Gloria Williams, Board members (to succeed Van Linck and Paul Quie); and John Howe, editor of JOIE (Journal of Opinions, Ideas, and Essays), third Board member, to replace Carl Adams. Miller: the membership may vote by acclamation (no ballots needed) at the annual meeting. Moved, seconded to approve the slate as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Report on Relationships with the University:

McNamara Office Space (handout: e-mail from Kristen Doyle, UM Real Estate Office): Miller: U Relations has agreed to cover office space insurance for UMRA. Miller has corrected and signed the lease agreement; final copy will arrive soon and will go to Jean Kinsey, incoming president. Bobby Wangaard in U Relations will be UMRA's contact person.

Provost's Office and Colleges: John Adams: continues talking with Provost Karen Hanson about UMRA's pursuit of a formal connection with the U, emphasizing the value of retirees as resources to the U (see April minutes and handout for specific information). Deans are figuring out how to connect more closely with retirees and prospective UM retirees; maintaining contact is difficult. No specific proposal yet, but Adams will continue talks about how to advance the U's and UMRA's missions until a resolution is reached (see motion from April Board minutes). The U is also participating in a second round of the American Council on Education (ACE) project to explore how retirees can be more involved with their universities.

Discussion: Re: getting names of retirees for continuing contact (Kinsey), Adams has talked with the heads of both the UM Foundation and the Alumni Association, both of which exist to serve the U, and both of whose bylaws allow them to share their lists with others. The goal is to try to organize UMRA similar to these two organizations; exact form of this relationship is still not known, but it could simply be a bylaws change. In that case, UMRA would need to change its legal status (from 501C4) to accommodate the change. **John Adams will include Carl Adams, as treasurer, in future discussions.** Next step: present a specific proposal to the Provost, with copies to the presidents of the UM Foundation and the Alumni Association. Skaggs proposed the following statement reflecting parallel status of UMRA to those of the Foundation and the Alumni Association: "a separate, non-profit organization affiliated with the Office of the Provost that represents retiree interests to the University and develops and encourages retiree service to the University." Donna Peterson: UMRA may need a different mission statement for the bylaws. Current one is one-sided. Eicher: use "resource" rather than "service." Miller: will address bylaws revisions at the September meeting.

Re: college/department connections with retirees: Adams: The CLA collegiate retirement event was canceled, because many retirees felt it was too removed; wanted it more at the department level. Joanne Eicher: ask Central to request colleges and departments to involve retirees (hasn't been done before)—for future discussion (John Adams). Other discussion re: (1) how the U's mission gets translated to the colleges, departments, individuals.

Currently uneven; (2) need for training for new department heads; (3) raising UMRA's visibility (Kinsey: one department offered to pay \$10 to each retiree for first year's UMRA dues); (4) UMRA's purpose: Carl Adams: independent advocacy or more involved service to the U? Miller: convey interest to the U and encourage retirees' service to the U (two-way street)—stated on our website. John Adams: Regents' policy: retirees are still part of the U. Eicher: many U employees are also alumni; if not an alum, can get missed.

Re: original UMRA independence: Skaggs: may have been when UMRA headed the process for the 1666 Coffman project, which the U didn't want to be involved in. Also, a previous treasurer pulled the UMRA account out of the U to get more flexibility.

Cares Committee Report and Discounts: Earl Nolting: Discounts (handout): all discounts for next year are locked in. Parking rates will stay the same. Discounts to certain athletic events may be possible; he will report back to the membership. Sponsorship for the newsletter is for six pages, eight, if needed. Skaggs: getting sponsors to write checks is difficult; if UMRA were part of the U, we could use internal transfers of funds and probably attract more sponsors. John Adams: another point for the argument to be connected to the U.

Re: Cares Committee: Nolting thanked Van Linck, who is stepping down as co-chair, but staying on the committee. The Cares Committee was involved in all of the workshops this year, which were well attended. Robert Kane (endowed chair in Long-term Care and Aging) has been meeting with the committee and other volunteers to be resources to UMRA members in crisis and to facilitate learning more about managing health care crises. Miller thanked Nolting for his leadership and contributions.

Annual Meeting Agenda (handout): Miller: three items: discounts report (Nolting), officers and board election, for action (John Adams), bylaws update (Miller). Anderson provided slides for the election.

Program Committee Report (handout): Kinsey reviewed programs for 2015. Three financial workshops (handout: Vern Eidman's email to Hal Miller) are scheduled, but we need a November workshop. Donna Peterson, next year's Program Committee chair, will handle. Miller: the committee has abandoned the idea of parallel financial workshops for now; Human Resources can offer them separately, if they wish to pursue.

Membership Committee Report: John Anderson, reporting for Virgil Larson: seven new memberships (11 people), more as of this morning. Membership is stable. Average number of people: 550; of households: 400. David Naumann demonstrated a pull-up vinyl chart for potential use at pre-retirement seminars. Cost is under \$200. Kinsey: pursue this idea for future seminars. The Membership Committee can decide on content and logo (Hanson); include mission and values (Carl Adams). Re: recruitment: ask new retirees to help generate interest in UMRA (Van Linck); invite prospective and current retirees from individual units and departments to personal home gatherings (Naumann).

Liaison Reports:

URVC (handout): John Anderson reviewed summary of projects and activities (reflects only those that are reported or get captured). Note: UMRA president-elect is a member of URVC. Anderson: URVC's role is finding projects and volunteers and identifying people who want volunteer. Articles appear in the newsletter. No one knows of any UM office for volunteers. Loper: UMRA included just faculty several years ago. (Anderson): current employees can join URVC if they wish, but the title hasn't been changed to reflect this.

Benefits: Ted Litman: no changes. The committee plans to interview some organizations for current employees re: retiree plans in late summer.

JOIE (Journal of Opinions, Essays, and Ideas): Miller: John and Judy Howe have been meeting with the U librarians and will report at a future meeting.

Other:

Website: Naumann: the website should be updated soon. In late summer, he will be training officers and others to put their own items on the web.

The Board thanked Hal Miller for his leadership as president this year.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Medbery, Secretary