

**UMRA Board of Directors
Minutes, Meeting of Tuesday, 17 November 2015**

Members present: Carl Adams, Shirley Barber, Roger Clemence, Joanne Eicher, Vernon Eidman, Sherilyn Goldsmith May, Jean Kinsey, Virgil Larson, Jeanne Markell, Hal Miller, David Naumann, Kathleen O'Brien, Chip Peterson, Donna Peterson, Gloria Williams

Members absent: Steve Benson, John Howe

Other participants: John Adams, John Anderson, Ginny Hanson, Ted Litman, Dale Swanson

Kinsey called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

1. (Re)introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

2. Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved as proposed.

3. Minutes of Oct. 27 meeting

The minutes were approved as drafted with, one minor correction.

4. Treasurer's Report (Carl Adams)

UMRA's financial situation looks stable. Dues are running slightly ahead of last year, coming to approximately \$13,000 in total. The October luncheon broke even. Adams considers affordable the Board's decision to establish an expectation that an UMRA representative will attend the national AROHE and Big Ten retiree association conferences (biennial and annual respectively). The decision is not a firm commitment; in a tight budget year the Executive Committee could simply choose not to select a representative. This year's contributions from sponsors (CCE, U of M Foundation, U Bookstores, Center for Spirituality and Healing, etc.) have still not come in; Adams will remind them of their commitments.

5. Procedures for bylaws revision discussion and vote at today's luncheon meeting

To avoid any danger of cutting into the speaker's time, Kinsey will place the bylaws before the membership at the beginning of the luncheon. Miller will move approval on behalf of the Board and D. Peterson will second. [*Update:* The bylaw revisions proposed by the board were approved by a unanimous vote of the members present at the luncheon.]

6. Representation on/from U of M committees/units (see attachment)

Kinsey called the Board's attention to the attachment she had sent with the emailing, which excerpted the portion of the UMRA Operating Manual that dealt with representation on (and from) U committees. She pointed out that the U's Committee on Committees technically makes some of the appointments (which, in effect, normally means approving UMRA's appointments). A wide-ranging discussion ensued concerning such issues as how UMRA's appointments are made (including whether they need, or should need, Board action), whether there should be a representative to or from the University Foundation, whether appointments to the Civil Service and

P&A senates require signoff from the Committee on Committees, whether we need to clarify which positions involve full membership versus representation without vote, and how representatives should report back to the Board. There was also some discussion of what to do about positions listed in the Operating Manual but are currently unfilled. (Should we recruit more actively for some positions, such as representative to the Civil Service Senate? Should we drop other positions from the list, e.g., representatives from UMC and UMD, neither of which has a retirees association?) Markell volunteered to explore these issues and report back to the Board for further discussion.

7. Rationale for MOU between UMRA and U of M

Kinsey reminded the Board of the ongoing discussion about UMRA's relationship to the U. Deb Cran in the Provost's Office has suggested that it might make sense to develop a memorandum of agreement to spell out the nature of the relationship. The Alumni Association and the U of M Foundation are two examples of organizations not formally part of the U that have signed MOUs with it; these might be instructive for UMRA. Kinsey called the Board's attention to the rough draft of a rationale for an MOU, which she had included in the pre-meeting emailing to members. O'Brien suggested basing the rationale more directly on the U's mission. J. Adams suggested also tying it to the national discussion of the nature and meaning of retirement (including a document developed by ACE). Eicher opined that a formal UMRA tie to the Provost's Office might filter downward and help retirees' efforts to make a difference at the departmental level. Kinsey suggested that UMRA might be better off developing an MOU with the Provost's Office rather than with the Regents, as is the case with the Alumni Association and the Foundation. D. Peterson agreed, saying that having a clear hooking point is important. C. Adams asserted that UMRA needs not just a philosophical alignment with the U but an operational relationship. C. Peterson suggested starting with what we seek in that operational relationship and then wording the rationale to feed directly into that desire. Clemence noted that MOUs are not unusual at the U. The Board unanimously asked the task force (Kinsey, J. Adams, Miller, and D. Peterson) to continue pursuing an MOU with the U.

Reports/updates

8. Health Benefits (Ted Litman, Dale Swanson)

Swanson reminded the Board that open enrollment is currently in progress. He and Litman are both full voting members of the Health Care Benefits Advisory Committee, and he is also its vice chair. Although the committee does not have any formal decision-making power, it has a significant impact on decisions. Hanson asserted that it is hard for retirees to get enough information and understanding to make rational decisions among health insurance plans, including outside plans vs. those in the U's suite of offerings. Markell wondered if UMRA could encourage retirees to share their experiences and perspectives among themselves. Kinsey suggested that perhaps next year's October workshop could be devoted to such sharing.

9. Web page development (Dave Naumann)

Work continues apace. The committee is developing training materials for those who will post materials on the site and also is continuing to push the database capabilities forward. Naumann noted that the database will have some budgetary implications, although relatively small; for example, PayPal charges 2.75% on each payment through it. C. Adams asserted, however, that payments through UMRA's present systems also incur service fees and that it may well prove a wash.

10. CARES Committee (Earl Nolting)

Kinsey reported that that Nolting had reported by email that training continues for the care guides.

11. Campus Club representative (Kathy O'Brien)

O'Brien is a full voting member on the Campus Club board. She will report back to the UMRA Board after the next meeting.

12. Program Committee (Donna Peterson)

The committee is still trying to schedule a speaker for January.

13. JOIE (John Howe)

No report.

14. Membership Committee (John Anderson/Virgil Larson)

Anderson reported that the new members reception had attracted 17 new members, or approximately 25% of all new members. Larson reported that new memberships continue to dribble in, albeit now at a slow pace. Kinsey noted that feedback on the reception had been extremely positive.

15. URVC (John Anderson)

The URVC Board will be discussing long-term planning.

16. Communications/Newsletter (Ginny Hanson)

Many members did not receive the Newsletter in a timely fashion this month, apparently because of slow USPO service. The Board supported Hanson's suggestion that the deadline for submissions be advanced from the 22nd to the 20th of the previous month.

17. Research Grants (Jan Hogan)

Eicher reported for Hogan that things are moving forward satisfactorily.

18. History/Archive Committee (John Howe/Gloria Williams)

Williams has agreed to take over the leadership of the committee. She plans soon to visit the U Archives to see what UMRA materials it contains.

19. Workshop subcommittee (Vern Eidman)

The first workshop in the financial series, which concerned financing retirement, was held after the October meeting. The second, in January, will deal with retiree health care.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.