

**UMRA Board of Directors**  
**Minutes, Meeting of Tuesday, 26 January 2016**

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

Members absent: Carl Adams, Shirley Barber, Steve Benson, Sherilyn Goldsmith May, John Howe

Other participants: John Anderson, Ginny Hanson, Jan Hogan, Dale Swanson

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

**1. Welcome**

All present introduced themselves.

**2. Approve Agenda**

The agenda was approved as proposed.

**3. Minutes of Nov. 17 meeting**

The previously distributed minutes were approved as drafted.

**4. Treasurer's Report (Carl Adams)**

Kinsey distributed the written report that Adams had sent to her and noted that it simply identifies expenses and income in meaningful categories. All income from sponsors has been paid to date. Adams anticipates a slight surplus for the year. Board members raised three questions that Kinsey will convey to Adams. 1) What does "overpayment returns" mean? 2) Where do the travel reimbursements for the Big Ten conference come in? 3) Where does Board liability insurance show up?

**5. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UMRA and U of M Provost Office**

Kinsey gave some quick background to Draft 5 (previously distributed) of the agreement. At its November meeting the Board had reviewed a document outlining a rationale for an MOU and had given the go-ahead to continue pursuing the idea. Subsequently Kinsey had developed a new and considerably more detailed draft, patterned after that between the Alumni Association and the Regents of the University. The UMRA executive committee had made further edits at its January meeting and had decided not to share any draft with the Provost Office until the Board had a chance to review it. In the meantime, key administrators have indicated that, in principle, they are favorably disposed to the idea of such an agreement. O'Brien summarized that the agreement would memorialize UMRA's existence as an independent organization and formalize its relationship to the University; Kinsey added that it would also establish mutual commitments. The Board made several minor alterations, then unanimously approved a motion to enter into negotiations with the Provost's office. After incorporating the Board's revisions, Kinsey will send the new draft to Al Levine with a copy to Carol Carrier.

## **6. Appointment of Nominations Committee**

Miller drew the Board's attention to his previously distributed memo. The immediate past president chairs the Nominating Committee, which is charged with presenting a slate of Board and officer candidates to the UMRA membership for election at its annual meeting in May. The bylaws provide that the Nominating Committee shall consist of two Board members and three other UMRA members. The Board now appointed to the Nominating Committee the five members recommended in Miller's memo: Donna Peterson (as President-Elect) and Miller as the two Board representatives on the committee, and John Anderson, Julie Medbery, and Earl Nolting as the three other UMRA members.

### *Committee Reports*

## **7. Program/Workshop Committee**

D. Peterson announced that luncheon speakers are lined up for all months from now through January 2017, and that (with the exception of February) workshops are complete through September 2016.

## **8. Health Care Benefits Advisory Committee**

Swanson noted that final open enrollment statistics are still not available. He also commented that Fairview's acquisition of Preferred One illustrates a strong trend toward greater consolidation in the industry.

## **9. Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans**

Eidman reported that Securian is nearly ready to bring its Retirement Distribution Planner online.

### **9a. UMRA membership exception**

While giving his report on retirement plans, Eidman noted that today's speaker, CSOM's Andy Whitman, has indicated that he would like to join UMRA. Because Whitman has not yet retired or, to Eidman's knowledge, entered phased retirement, under the bylaws his membership would require the Board to grant an exception to the eligibility criteria. After ensuing discussion suggested that the issue might be more complex than it appeared at first glance, Miller offered to have the Membership Committee think through the issues and then report back to the Board. Eidman agreed to further investigate the (pending?) retirement status of Whitman.

## **10. Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs**

Ted Litman was not present to give a report.

## **11. CARES Committee**

Earl Nolting was not present to give a full report. Kinsey did note that at today's membership luncheon she would be introducing the Care Guides, who have been undergoing training.

## **12. Campus Club Board**

O'Brien prefaced her comments with a parenthetical note that the Campus Club's Board of Directors meets the day after the UMRA Board, so that information in her reports to the latter is habitually a month old. She then reported that much of the Campus Club Board's focus currently is on how to deal with gradually dwindling membership numbers as people retire. Among the strategies it is trying out are collegiate events and receptions to attract new members. O'Brien suggests that retirees be invited to such events.

## **13. Web page development**

Naumann reported that several UMRA members participated in the first training session, held after last week's Executive Committee meeting, on how to enter material into the new website. The instructional handouts used there will be revised further. The next training will be for Hanson as newsletter editor. A few more training sessions are planned at CSOM for 1:00–4:00 on selected Fridays.

An unresolved issue concerns the number of people who should be authorized to enter information and whether further controls might be needed. Kinsey said she is working on it and hopes to identify three gatekeepers who could review material before it is posted. Hanson opined that editors would be needed as well.

Williams inquired about the relationship between the new website and the University Archives. Naumann said that most materials will stay indefinitely on the website but that selected items could also be preserved in the Archives. Williams will keep all this in mind for her conversations with Archives staff.

The next two steps in website development are to transfer the membership database to the website and then to turn on the function for online payments through PayPal. The goal is to have full functionality in time for membership renewals and new memberships for 2016–17

## **14. JOIE**

No report, Howe being absent. Kinsey did mention that she and Howe are looking for new editors or co-editors.

## **15. Membership Committee**

Larson distributed a handout showing the slow but relatively steady growth in UMRA membership since 2011. The membership directory has been updated recently.

## **16. URVC**

Anderson distributed a handout on URVC volunteering, which included a detailed list of events and numbers from for Sept.-Dec. 2015 as well as total volunteer numbers by month since July 2009. The numbers show approximately a doubling in volunteer hours over that period, although Anderson cautioned that may partly reflect better tracking. Approximately 20% of URVC volunteering is by UMRA members.

### **17. Communications/Newsletter**

Hanson made a plea for more article submissions and asked whether UMRA might need a communications committee dealing with both the newsletter and the website. She noted that she will be traveling starting February 28; Barb Van Drassek will do the final production for the March newsletter but does not want to have to track down submissions. Kinsey suggested that each committee chair might want to submit at least one article per year; Hanson noted that the photo club and book club do make submissions. She asked if a synopsis of each luncheon might be a good type of information to begin including in each issue.

### **18. Research Grants**

Hogan reported that twelve applications have been received for this round of grants. The VP for Research is helping find reviewers. At Hogan's request, the Board authorized taking \$5,000 from Foundation funds to match the \$45,000 from the university for this round.

### **19. History/Archive Committee**

Williams reported that UMRA already has seven boxes of materials in the University Archives but that they are filed in inconsistent categories. They run from 1977 to 2012 and need additions for the most recent years. Williams will work with Archives staff to develop systematic guidelines for deciding which UMRA materials to keep in the Archives.

### **20. Representative to Senate P&A and Senate Civil Service**

Markell distributed a handout summarizing her conversations with Argonne Star and Becky Hippert, staff respectively to the Civil Service Senate and the P&A Senate. Star was unaware of past affiliation between CSS and UMRA and will be getting back to Markell about where to go from here. Hippert said the P&A Senate welcomes a liaison, ex-officio membership and awaits the name of someone. Markell will follow up and report back to the Board.

### **21. Representative to U of M Alumni Association**

Markell has also spoken with the Alumni Association. Markell will serve as UMRA's representative to it.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.