

**UMRA Board of Directors**  
**Minutes, Meeting of Tuesday, 23 February 2016**  
**By Chip Peterson**

Members present: Shirley Barber, Roger Clemence, Sherilyn Goldsmith May, Joanne Eicher, Vern Eidman, Jean Kinsey, Virgil Larson, Hal Miller, Dave Naumann, Kathy O'Brien, Chip Peterson, Gloria Williams

Members absent: Carl Adams, Steve Benson, John Howe, Jeanne Markell, Donna Peterson

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

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

**1. Welcome**

Kinsey welcomed all.

**2. Approve Agenda**

The agenda was approved as proposed.

**3. Minutes of Jan. 26 meeting**

The previously distributed minutes were approved as drafted.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Kinsey distributed Adams's report. Even with the increase in the Campus Club's room rental fees, it appears likely that UMRA will run a slight surplus next year.

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

Kinsey updated the Board. In late January she had sent draft 7 of the MOU to the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. Deb Kranz, Carol Carrier, Al Levine, and Karen Hanson all have copies. Feedback so far has been positive, and the Vice Provost Office is now sending it to the lawyers for their review. Kinsey will prod the Provost Office if we haven't heard something within a couple of weeks. [*Update:* On March 7 she sent a message to Carrier and Levine asking for a status update.] O'Brien urged the importance of reaching closure this spring lest pending retirements slow down the process. Kinsey reiterated her hope that the AO (Associated Organization) status contemplated in the draft MOU will, if adopted, allay the university's concern about releasing retiree contact information to UMRA.

**6. UMRA Board retreat**

Kinsey called the Board's attention to her brief background memo sent previously as an attachment to the Board agenda. For some time now UMRA has held a Board retreat approximately once every three years, and she asked the Board whether it would like to schedule one for sometime this spring or summer. Eicher and Naumann both commented that they had found previous retreats valuable. O'Brien opined that a retreat provides a good opportunity for taking stock as well as for charting directions. Miller added that the university's action on the

MOU, whether positive or negative, would feed into the discussion of goals and planning. Clemence observed that UMRA harbors a vast repository of institutional memory; maybe that could also be incorporated into our role. Eicher urged better tracking of professional contributions by retirees to the university (including such things as services that emeritus faculty provide to departments and colleges). The Board endorsed the idea of a one-day retreat with a primary focus on whether/how much the organization wishes to grow (in numbers and/or in mission/activities). Kinsey will send an email to Board members and committee chairs concerning a retreat date. [*Update:* The email went out February 24.] The executive committee will begin the retreat planning process. The Board discussed whether or not to recruit an outside facilitator for the retreat but decided to defer that decision until the retreat objectives and agenda come further into focus.

### **7. Committee reports for the Newsletter**

Kinsey introduced the topic. The Executive Committee has recommended that each committee chair or representative to a university unit submit at least one item per year to the UMRA newsletter. This would come to a minimum of 15 reports altogether, or nearly two per newsletter. She distributed a partial draft schedule. Hanson suggested that such articles be around 150–300 words in length. She also urged the Board to establish a Communications Committee that could deal not only with the newsletter and the website but also with publicizing UMRA to external audiences. The Board adopted a policy to request at least one newsletter article per year from each committee chair or representative. Kinsey asked committee chairs present to indicate which month(s) would be best for their material and said she would poll the others by email.

### *Committee Reports*

### **8. Program/Workshop Committee**

Committee chair D. Peterson was out of the country; Kinsey briefly reviewed upcoming programs, including Lori Sturdivant and Tom Swain for the March luncheon.

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

Swanson & Litman noted that this year's enrollment reports are still not out.

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

Eidman reported that the committee and Dick Skaggs had met with Securian and had offered several suggestions for the online Retirement Planner that it hopes to have up and running soon. The guaranteed rate for the General Account Limited seems likely to drop further.

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

No report.

### **12. CARES Committee**

No report.

### **13. Web page development**

Naumann noted that the most technically capable person working on the website was an undergraduate who has suddenly left the university for a Massachusetts startup. The student promised to continue working on the UMRA website as well, but Naumann is uncertain how much time he'll be able to put into it. Additional training sessions for UMRA members who need to be able to enter material into the website have been scheduled for 1:00 to 4:00 on March 4 and March 18 in the Appleby Hall computer lab. The target date for going live with the new website capabilities (including use of PayPal) remains unchanged - late spring.

### **14. Campus Club Board**

O'Brien reported. The Campus Club is totally independent from the university. It pays rent to Coffman Union, which is also independent and under its own Board of Governors. The room rate increase affecting UMRA came out of the CC Board's last meeting and is part of its response to a slow but steady drop in membership, in considerable part due to retirements. Special events such as weddings and retirement celebrations constitute a major source of Campus Club income. Kinsey asked O'Brien to thank the Campus Club for its good service to UMRA.

### **15. JOIE**

Eicher reported that the JOIE Board has identified five potential editors and hopes for a decision within a month.

### **16. Membership Committee**

Larson called the Board's attention to the previously distributed attachment, which included a detailed (every two months) graph of membership numbers since January 2011, as well as annual totals as of January since the same date. In a typical year some 10–15% of new retirees respond to the initial email invitation from UMRA. Membership tends to grow more or less steadily through the year, then drop suddenly in September because of non-renewals. Annual totals have continued to grow, if slowly, over recent years.

Anderson reported that UMRA will present at the university's pre-retirement workshops again this year and that the committee has still not developed its recommendation to the Board concerning next year's membership fees.

A discussion ensued concerning the monthly luncheon venue. Several times this year the number of would-be registrants has exceeded the space in Campus Club ABC. UMRA might want to experiment with other venues, but we do not know yet whether any with greater capacity would be cost-effective. O'Brien noted that decency would require UMRA to provide at least a year's advance notice were it to change venues.

### **17. URVC**

No report.

### **18. Communications/Newsletter (Ginny Hanson)**

Hanson noted that March 22 will be the deadline for April newsletter submissions. She will be gone in the period immediately before that and may not have email access.

**19. Research Grants**

No report.

**20. History/Archive Committee**

No report.

**21. Representative to Senate P&A and Senate Civil Service**

No report.

**22. Representative to U of M Alumni Association**

No report.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.