

**UMRA Board of Directors
Minutes, Meeting of Tuesday, 22 March 2016**

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

Members absent: Carl Adams, Roger Clemence, 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

Kinsey welcomed all.

2. Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved as proposed.

3. Minutes of Feb. 22 meeting

The previously distributed minutes were approved as drafted.

4. Treasurer's Report

Kinsey distributed Adams's written report. With an oral update she added, the current carry-forward comes to about \$5,452 and we have about \$10,000 in savings. The Board unanimously accepted the report.

5. Update and draft MOU between UMRA and U Provost Office

Al Levine got back to Kinsey the previous Friday to say that Greg Brown (the second attorney to review the proposed MOU) has now read the draft document but is awaiting feedback from Data Services. Levine has made the case to Brown that the Alumni Association has perpetual access to data on graduates and that similar access by UMRA to retiree data would seem parallel.

6. UMRA Board retreat

Kinsey noted that, following polling of potential attendees concerning calendar, the Executive Committee has selected August 11 for the retreat. (No date was free on everyone's calendar; this was among those with the fewest conflicts.) Kinsey has sent an email inviting all members of the Council of Past Presidents, Board members, committee chairs, and representatives to U of M units to the retreat, and asking them to set aside the hours between 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. that day. The Executive Committee has yet to make a final decision on the venue and whether or not to bring in a facilitator. Miller pointed out that the MOU's final content will help shape the discussion. Donna Peterson added that, whatever form the final MOU takes, we need to think about what we want UMRA to look like in four or five years. Kinsey said that a key question is how aggressively we want to grow. Adams suggested that the Provost be

invited to lead a discussion of the recent ACE study on retirees; Miller opined that an alternative would be to request that of the new Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Rebecca Ropers-Hilman. Goldsmith May pointed out that the ACE study concerned only faculty, whereas UMRA also embraces other categories of former employees. Kinsey asked Board members to send her any further suggestions by email.

7. Committee reports for the Newsletter

Most committee chairs have now returned the survey concerning preferences as to month for inserting their reports into the UMRA Newsletter. Kinsey issued a gentle reminder to those who have not yet done so.

Committee Reports

8. Program/workshop Committee

Donna Peterson reviewed the programs scheduled for September through January, as well as March (a February speaker is still unconfirmed), plus the workshops for April, September, and October.

9. Communications/Newsletter

Hanson reminded all that March 24 is the submission deadline for the April Newsletter. Naumann, Eidman, and Larson indicated that they will still be submitting items. The May issue will include Board and officer nominee bios.

10. Research Grants

Hogan distributed a list of the eleven 2016–17 awardees and their projects. The UMRA match that the Board had authorized will be unnecessary because funds for one of last year's grants have reverted when the recipient did not complete the project. O'Brien commented that the grants are important not only for the financial support they bring but also for the recognition and credibility that projects gain as a result. In response to a question from Donna Peterson, Hogan explained that monitoring of projects falls to the office of the Vice President for Research. Kinsey opined that it would be good to keep completed projects in the UMRA archives. Naumann noted that abstracts for the last three years are on the UMRA website.

11. Nomination Committee

The committee—which consists of Miller (chair), Anderson, Julie Medbery, Earl Nolting, and Donna Peterson—has held two face-to-face meetings and conducted numerous email exchanges. The slate is now complete except for the position of president-elect. Miller expects it to be ready by April. Based on this year's experience, he might decide to propose a bylaws amendment to expand the committee from five to seven members.

12. Web page development

Naumann reported. Things are working out all right with the remote volunteer work by the former student (now in Boston) who is carrying much of the workload on the website redesign. The target date for the web-based membership database to be operational is still June, which would be in time for the next membership campaign. One of the training sessions for

members who need to be able to post information had to be postponed because the scheduled Friday session turned out to fall on a university holiday.

13. JOIE

Kinsey announced that the JOIE board has proposed Clyde (Bud) Clausen, a professor emeritus of pediatrics, as the new editor; he will be reporting to the UMRA Board in April.

14. CARES Committee

No report.

15. Rep to Campus Club Board

O'Brien noted that Ann Holt (director of the Campus Club) will help her identify (an) appropriate month(s) for UMRA Newsletter submission(s) and will assist in preparing it/them.

16. Membership Committee

Larson distributed an updated graph of membership change over the past few years and said UMRA currently seems to be headed toward another record membership year. Anderson reported that four UMRA representatives went to the two recent university-sponsored pre-retirement seminars. That yielded 180 email addresses of prospective retirees who indicated they would like to receive the list of useful websites he has prepared. The retirement kit is on the UMRA website. Responding to a question from Miller, Anderson said that the committee has not yet developed a recommendation concerning the possibility of creating an associate UMRA membership category. It may not be necessary, given that the particular case that raised the issue has been resolved. Eicher suggested that adjunct faculty also merit study; some teach at the university for many years without ever having a regular appointment and therefore do not officially become retirees after they cease teaching. Markell suggested this could be a good topic for the retreat. Donna Peterson added that we should also consider P&A and Civil Service staff who leave before reaching formal retirement. Anderson suggested that such issues might be relevant to the MOU.

17. URVC

Anderson distributed a written report on recent volunteering through URVC. Totals came to 645 hours by 101 volunteers in January and 888 hours by 98 volunteers in February.

18. History/Archive Committee

Williams has asked Marcia Pankake (library retiree and UMRA member) to help out. In response to a question from Chip Peterson, Williams said she would ask the University Archives for guidance concerning what sorts of UMRA materials the Archives would like to keep, as well as what format it would prefer (hard copy? digital? both?). Naumann commented that as we get more materials on the UMRA website, batch digital exportation to the Archives might become practical. Some discussion ensued concerning what sorts of materials UMRA will want to keep, including presidential papers. Should the Board add some end-of-year report expectations for the president, committee chairs, etc?

19. Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans (Vern Eidman)

Eidman reported. A Securian team recently made its annual visit to the subcommittee and reported that it had been another good year for Securian. The industry urges maintaining a 250% reserve, whereas Securian seeks to retain 500%. “What-if” exercises conducted by Securian suggest that even fairly dire scenarios would reduce that reserve only to about 400%. Although Securian hopes to hold the annual yield of the General Account Limited to a figure about 3.5%, if interest rates continue to decline that target may be difficult to maintain. Securian’s business has been expanding both at the university and with other employers.

20. Health Care Benefits Advisory Committee

Swanson reported that the committee has still not received a formal report from the university concerning this year’s experience. Preliminary information suggests some movement to higher-deductible plans.

21. Representative to Alumni Association (Jean Markell)

Markell has not yet attended her first board meeting. In the meantime, she is trying to schedule an informational meeting with the UMAA president.

22. Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs

No report.

23. Representative to Senate P&A and Senate Civil Service

Markell reported that she received word that the Civil Service Senate would also welcome an UMRA representative.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.