

**UMRA Board of Directors**  
**Minutes Meeting of Tuesday, 26 April 2016**  
[Considered unofficial pending Board approval]

Members present: Roger Clemence, Jean Kinsey, Virgil Larson, Jeanne Markell, Sheri Goldsmith May, Hal Miller, Dave Naumann, Kathy O'Brien, Chip Peterson, Donna Peterson, Gloria Williams

Members absent: Carl Adams, Shirley Barber, Steve Benson, Joanne Eicher, Vern Eidman, John Howe,

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

Kinsey called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**1. Welcome**

Kinsey welcomed all.

**2. Approve agenda**

The Board adopted the agenda as previously distributed by email.

**3. Minutes**

The Board approved the previously distributed minutes of its March 11 meeting with no changes.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Kinsey distributed Carl Adams's written report. The current carry-forward is approximately \$5,500. Such items as the May newsletter, a partial subsidy to the May luncheon (item 7 below), and conference attendance (item 8) will consume most of this, but very likely UMRA will finish the year with a modest surplus—in addition to its \$10,000 in reserves.

**5. Update and draft MOU between UMRA and the U of M**

Kinsey, O'Brien, Dona Peterson, and the Provost Office's Al Levine met with Greg Brown, the U's General Counsel, in early April to discuss Brown's suggested revisions. Standard protocol dictates that MOU should be with the Regents of the U of M rather than with the Provost Office, although this does not mean that the MOU needs Regents' approval. Brown personally sees no reason why sharing retiree contact data with UMRA should be a problem, but the issue is still up in the air pending feedback from Human Resources. A meeting with Kathy Brown or Patty Franklin is to be scheduled on this issue. The draft will go to the UMRA Board once further consultations have occurred and any further changes incorporated into the MOU.

**6. UMRA Board retreat**

Kinsey distributed a handout summarizing where the retreat stands. A venue at Midland Hills Country Club, near the St. Paul Campus, has now been reserved for August 11 at no cost other than for any meals and refreshments. A retreat planning committee consists of the UMRA Executive Committee plus John Adams, John Anderson, Julie Medbery, and Jeanne Markell. Adams will facilitate the retreat. Its agenda, although still to be established, will likely include

the related issues of growth strategies, communication strategies, options for the monthly luncheon and its venue, and possible refinement of membership eligibility criteria (concerning, for example, treatment of long-term employees who did not technically retire). Adams has also suggested a possible presentation concerning the national ARC program about how retirees are treated by their institutions. O'Brien urged looking also at the U of M's retiree profile.

#### **7. May luncheon**

Kinsey noted that the May luncheon, partially celebratory in character, has traditionally been more costly than the others, both because it is fancier and because it helps compensate for small Campus Club subsidies for the other luncheons throughout the year. The Board approved a motion to continue this year the recent practice of allocating from the UMRA budget a luncheon subsidy of about \$10 per attendee in order to hold the luncheon fee to \$30.

#### **8. Big Ten & AROHE meetings in summer 2016**

The Board approved Chip Peterson to represent UMRA at the annual Big Ten Retirees Association, to be held August 5–7 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Kinsey asked any interested member to let her know of his/her availability to attend the biennial AROHE (Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education) conference, to be held in Seattle August 14–16. She noted that representation this year could prove especially fruitful for UMRA, given that the two conferences will immediately precede and follow the August 11 retreat.

### **Committee reports**

#### **9. Nomination Committee**

This year's nominating committee consisted of John Anderson, Julie Medbery, Hal Miller, Earl Nolting, and Donna Peterson. Miller, as committee chair, called the Board's attention to one emailed attachment announcing its slate of recommended candidates and another including their draft bios. Donna Peterson will move automatically from president-elect to president and Kinsey from president to past president. Other proposed nominees are Chip Peterson for president-elect; Sheri Goldsmith May for secretary; Carl Adams to continue as treasurer; Kathy O'Brien to serve a second three-year Board term; and Martha Fedra, Judy Leahy Grimes, Cherie Hamilton, and Jerry Rinehart to join the Board as new members (one more than usual because of Goldsmith May's nomination for the position of secretary). The Board endorsed the committee's recommended slate of candidates.

#### **10. JOIE**

Bud Clawson reported. At a meeting February 29 the JOIE editorial board passed the editor's torch from John Howe to him. The board wants to: (1) expand the number of editors and reviewers beyond the current six; and (2) increase publicity. Clawson noted that existing papers are attracting downloads not only from elsewhere in the U.S. but also from Europe. Work on the JOIE website will continue. Kinsey thanked Clawson for taking on the editorship and expressed her hope that JOIE will submit at least one report per year to the UMRA Board.

### **11. Membership Committee (Attachment)**

Larson referred members to the previously emailed graph of membership trends. He noted that membership is already at an all-time high, and given past patterns of gradual additional increase through the summer until the annual September culling, the August total is likely to be a record by a significant number. Kinsey reported that John Adams and she had encountered considerable interest when they represented UMRA at a recent CLA luncheon for newly retiring faculty.

### **12. Program/workshop Committee**

Donna Peterson reported that speakers are fully booked through mid-spring of the 2016–17 UMRA year, and workshops through early winter.

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

Naumann reported. Two group training sessions have now reached about half of expected website contributors. The proofreading/editing system is still a work in progress; final decisions remain to be made concerning the number of gatekeepers and how submissions should be assigned among them. Editors identified so far are Anderson and Hanson. Hanson asserted that more are needed and that, once the roster is full, all of the assigned editing gatekeepers need to get together to hammer out a clear set of policies and procedures. Naumann noted that the online database is nearing functionality.

### **14. Communications/Newsletter**

Hanson reported. Computer glitches that temporarily slowed down her work on the newsletter now seem to have been resolved; she hopes she has lost no emails in the meantime. She expects to have plenty of submitted copy to work with for the May issue. The submission deadline for the September newsletter will be August 20. Among other items, each issue will need approximately 400 words on the upcoming luncheon speaker and topic. Miller opined that a meeting with likely contributors concerning standards would be helpful. Hanson noted is still experiencing some problems in getting adequate photos for use in the newsletter; resolution is insufficient when submitters just try to pull one off the web, although submissions directly from cameras usually seem to work. Naumann added that, although Hanson converts photos to black and white for the newsletter, he prefers color for the web.

### **15. CARES Committee**

No report.

### **16. Rep to Campus Club Board**

No report.

### **17. Research Grants**

No report.

### **18. URVC**

No report.

**19. History/Archive Committee**

Williams walked the Board through her memo that had been included as an attachment to the meeting call. The University Archives currently contain seven boxes of UMRA material. Categories by which materials are filed are up to UMRA, not UA. Provenance is important to archivists, and as is the chronological order of items within any filing category. Hanson suggested that procedures and guidelines for archiving should be included in UMRA's Operating Document. O'Brien asserted that the person who originated a document—for example, the secretary for minutes, the newsletter editor for newsletters—should bear responsibility for collecting and submitting the year's accumulation of his/her materials. Discussion will continue.

**20. Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans**

No report.

**21. Health Care Benefits Advisory Committee**

Swanson reported that the committee's annual review of the plans is currently underway.

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

Markell reported that the UMRA-UMAA relationship is currently under discussion.

**23. Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs**

No report.

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

No report; a representative is still to be named.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.