

UMRA Board of Directors
Minutes Meeting of Tuesday, 24 May 2016

Members present: Carl Adams, Shirley Barber, Steve Benson, Roger Clemence, Joanne Eicher, Jean Kinsey, Virgil Larson, Jeanne Markell, Sheri Goldsmith May, Hal Miller, Dave Naumann, Kathy O'Brien, Chip Peterson, Donna Peterson, Gloria Williams

Members absent: Vern Eidman, John Howe

Other participants: John Anderson, Ginny Hanson, Earl Nolting, Dale Swanson

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

1. Welcome

Kinsey welcomed all.

2. Agenda

The Board adopted the agenda as previously distributed by email.

3. Minutes

The Board approved the previously distributed minutes of its April 26 meeting with no changes except the correction of one typo.

4. Treasurer's Report

Adams distributed a monthly report. Although some major bills are still outstanding, it appears that UMRA will run a very slight surplus for the year. The report does not include the \$10,000 in its checking account or the \$10,000 in savings with which it began the year, so it seems likely that UMRA will begin the 2016–17 year with reserves in the range of \$20,000.

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

Kinsey reported. On the advice of Greg Brown (Director of Transactional Law Services in the Office of the General Counsel), she has drafted a letter to Kathy Brown (Vice President for Human Resources) describing UMRA's planned uses of the retiree database (electronic mailings of the Newsletter for the first two years following an employee's retirement, with an opt-out possibility for any retiree who does not wish to receive it.

Kinsey also drew the Board's attention to the latest draft MOU with the Provost/Regents of U of M, which included two alternatives for the "Whereas" section describing past collaboration between UMRA and the university. The Board endorsed the shorter of the two, then granted Kinsey authority to sign off on the final agreement without further Board action unless (in her judgment) it includes significant changes, in which case she will submit it to an email vote.

6. UMRA Board retreat

On behalf of the retreat planning committee, Kinsey distributed a sheet of notes concerning the August 11 retreat at Midland Hills Country Club. Invitees will include current and incoming Board members, others who routinely report to the Board (committee chairs, editor, representatives to university committees) and members of the Council of Past Presidents. Participants will pay \$20 at the door toward costs of lunch, beverages, and snacks; UMRA will pick up any additional costs. Prior to the retreat, each committee chair will send Kinsey a written report on committee activities over the past 1–2 years. The retreat will seek to develop

recommendations concerning growth (direction in terms of size and scope of activities), a communication plan, and topics for Board discussion/decision in 2016–17.

In the course of this discussion the Board went into a temporary detour concerning parking ramp accessibility. Eicher and Barber volunteered to write a document articulating the problem that can be forwarded to the VP of U Services and AVP for Parking. This constitutes an informal task force to seek solutions, or at least some amelioration. Several Board members endorsed this action, which is totally consistent with the mission of UMRA.

7. Luncheon fee policies

Kinsey pointed out that the website currently says UMRA will pay one luncheon for any potential member to a luncheon as a guest of a member. She asked whether that policy should continue. The Board decided to defer a decision on this question until after the August retreat charts a direction concerning organizational growth and how aggressively UMRA wishes to seek it. Whatever policy it then decided upon should be clearly publicized.

Kinsey also pointed out that, under current policy, pre-payment of the year's luncheons does not cover the more expensive May luncheon. After some discussion the Board voted to add that luncheon to the pre-payment option in the future. If per-luncheon prices remain unchanged in 2016–17, as seems likely, members who choose the option will thus pay \$142 for the full eight luncheons rather than the current \$112 for the first seven.

8 Terms of office

Kinsey pointed out that neither the Bylaws nor the Operating Manual establishes precise terms of office for officers and Board members. The Board voted to define the UMRA year for this purpose as September 1 to August 31. This clarification will go into the next revision of the Operating Manual and should then be included in the Board's next round of proposals to the membership for amendments to the Bylaws.

In the course of the discussion, the Board authorized Adams to redefine UMRA's fiscal year as similarly extending from September through August.

9. Big Ten & AROHE conferences 2016

This year the meetings of the two main confederations of retiree associations will bookmark UMRA's August 11 retreat. Chip Peterson, as president-elect, will attend the annual Big Ten meeting, to be held August 5–7 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Kinsey repeated her call for a volunteer to attend the biennial AROHE conference, scheduled for August 14–16 in Seattle.

Committee Reports

10. Nominations Committee

Miller reported. He has photocopied copies of the candidate bios from the May Newsletter and will place enough on each table at today's luncheon/business meeting to accommodate all attendees. In addition, the projector will cast photos of all candidates onto the screen in the front of the room.

Miller also forewarned the Board that he may decide in the fall to propose expansion of the Nominations Committee from 5 to 7 members by adding one Board member and one non-Board member to the current 2 and 3 respectively.

11. Web page development

Naumann reported. Work continues on the project to link the membership database to the website and to develop the capacity for online payment of membership dues and luncheons. Although spotty availability of student assistants during the summer complicates the effort, Naumann still hopes the project can be completed in time for membership renewals.

Discussion ensued concerning whether members who prepay the full year's luncheon should continue to be required also to make separate reservations each month. Kinsey pointed out that Judy Leahy Grimes, in her capacity as luncheon reservations/payment coordinator, has gained considerable experience concerning percentage of no-shows and has already been overbooking accordingly. The Board approved Naumann's motion to establish a policy that, beginning in 2016–17, online pre-payment will automatically result in reservations for all luncheons.

12. Membership Committee

Larson referred to the previously emailed monthly membership statistics and graph. UMRA has gained an additional 13 members in the past month; total membership on the eve of the annual purge of non-renewing members will be significantly above the previous record. At Anderson's request, the Board authorized another October reception for new members.

13. CARES Committee

Nolting distributed a list of member discounts secured for 2016–17 (including tentative information in the case of OLLI and the Weisman) and noted also that sponsorships have been secured for most of the Newsletter editions.

He reported that between July 1 and May 19 the committee had sent cards or memorials for 18 member or spouse deaths.

Adams noted that the corresponding expenses appear in the "Administrative" line in his financial reports.

Nolting reported that the Care Guides are being used, although not as much as they might be.

14. Communications/Newsletter

Hanson said that she is looking forward to the discussion at the retreat concerning UMRA communication strategies. Kinsey will send her a list of dates that committee chairs have chosen for their reports in the Newsletter (although some have not yet chosen a month).

15. URVC

Anderson distributed a quarterly report on volunteer participation. Although the report shows monthly ups and downs, on average the trend is clearly still upward. UMRA members account for about 20% of volunteering through URVC.

16. Health Care Benefits Advisory Committee

Swanson reported that costs of the health plans for retirees under 65 years are going up by 2.1% for next year. Changes for those 65 and over are yet to be announced.

17. Representative to Campus Club Board

O'Brien reported that the Campus Club is very busy at this time of year and that its financial situation is reasonably stable.

18. Representative to Alumni Association

Markell reported that the UMAA's executive director is eager for a relationship with UMRA. Markell is to meet this afternoon with several UMAA officials. UMAA is considering the

possibility of making all alumni automatic members at no cost to them, and then turning to an “MPR model” of fundraising in lieu of dues. Adams asked Markell to get more information from UMAA about its approach.

19. Program/Workshop Committee

Donna Peterson reported. The September meeting will feature a talk by Wendy Lougee, the University Librarian, to focus especially on special collections and on personal contributions to the Archives; a tour of Andersen Library will follow, for which the Board authorized the committee to contract a shuttle to get members to the West Bank. The October meeting will feature reports by selected UMRA grant recipients; November, an election post-mortem by Kathryn Pierson; January, a talk on climate change by Mark Seely; and March, a presentation by State Economist Laura Kalambokidis. Speakers have not yet been secured for the February, April, and May luncheons. The 2016–17 workshops have not yet been pinned down, except that either October or November will be devoted to an examination of the retiree health plans offered by the university.

20. History/Archive Committee

Williams reported that the University Archives staff is comfortable with UMRA’s list of materials to be submitted annually. Committee chairs should get their final reports to her by August 1 for inclusion in this year’s collection of materials to be archived. Per discussion at a previous Board meeting, the original generator of materials (e.g., the president for agendas, the secretary for minutes, committee chairs for reports, etc.) is responsible for getting them to the committee for inclusion in the annual submission to the Archives. Williams suggested that reasonably small quantities of materials be sent to her as email attachments and larger quantities be given to her at the August retreat in the form of hard copies.

21. Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans

22. Research Grants

23. Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs

No reports

24. Representatives to P&A Senate and Civil Service Senate

Kinsey announced that representatives have now been appointed to the P&A Senate and the Civil Service Senate: Kay Thomas and Nancy Fulton respectively. Their service will begin in September.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.