

UMRA Board of Directors
Minutes: Meeting of Tuesday March 28, 2017

Members present: Carl Adams, Roger Clemence, Judy Leahy Grimes, Jean Kinsey, Jean Markell, Sheri Goldsmith May, Dave Nauman, Kathy O'Brien, Chip Peterson, Donna Peterson, Jerry Rinehart, Gloria Williams.

Members absent: Shirley Barber, Steve Benson, Martha Feda, Cherie Hamilton, John Howe.

Other Participants: John Anderson, Ginny Hanson, Jan Hogan, Earl Nolting, Dale Swanson, Kay Thomas, Ben Zimmerman

D. Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

1. **Welcome.**

Done

2. **Approve agenda.**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

3. **Approval of February 2017 minutes.**

The following changes were approved to agenda item #4 **Treasurer's Report**

-add the word *is*: "he *is* watching those figures."

-add the word *officers*: "contract which covers directors and *officers* liability,"

-add the words *to accept the Treasurer's Report*: "The motion to *accept the Treasurer's Report* was seconded and carried."

The following changes were approved to agenda item #5 **OLLI**

-add the name *Gary*: "*Gary* Hanson provided an overview of OLLI's program offerings.."

The following changes were approved to agenda item #15 **Membership Committee**

-The report given by John Anderson should read as follows:

Anderson reported that applications for membership are down: he's not getting new retiree's names from OHR, and as a consequence, invitations to membership are not getting distributed.

On the other hand, at the last OHR seminar, 175 participants gave their signatures and email addresses in order to receive digital copies of our Retirement Kit.

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

Adams distributed the **UMRA FINANCIAL ACTIVITY and ENDING BALANCES** sheet for 2/28/17-3/25/17. He expects that the income/expenses reflected in the report will continue for the rest of the year. C. Peterson motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion to accept the Treasurer's report was seconded by Kinsey and carried.

5. **MOU & Data Practices update (Donna Peterson)**

MOU- The language in one of the MOU provisions was changed and has been accepted by the University Attorney's office and University Provost's office. Today, D. Peterson will sign the MOU and J. Kinsey will go with her. Gregg Brown (General Counsel's office) and the University Attorney's office have done a TREMENDOUS amount of work to support this endeavor.

Data Practices request update - As the UMRA Membership committee had not received names

of new retirees since August 2016, D. Peterson was encouraged by retired General Counsel Bill Donohue to file a Data Practices request. This week 700 names were received. While we do not know if future names will come from the Data Practices Request Office, or the office of Human Resources, we ARE assured that UMRA has a home in Administration.

**C. Peterson affirmed the patience, hard work, and persistence of current UMRA President Donna Peterson and Past UMRA President Jean Kinsey in continuing the work initiated by John Adams to make this monumental event happen.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

6. **Communications Task Force (Jean Kinsey)**

Kinsey reported that the whole group has met twice, focusing on two main items:

-OHR contact form - In response to UMRA's newly restricted access to contact information for recent retirees, UMRA might provide OHR with a release form on which persons doing retirement planning could enter their contact information for transmission to UMRA.

-new newsletter team - The Task Force is meeting with a potential candidate for the position of Newsletter Editor on March 30.

In considering ways to communicate UMRA's activities with the broader University, Kinsey has written an article highlighting the UMRA Grant Recipients for possible publication in the *Brief*. Jan Hogan will review before submission.

7. **Nominations Committee (Jean Kinsey)**

Kinsey reported that the committee has confirmed candidates for 4 of the 5 positions. We were reminded that it is the General Membership, not the Board, that approves the slate of applicants at the May meetings.

8. **AROHE Budget for year (Donna Peterson)**

D. Peterson advised us that the Board had previously authorized monies for an UMRA Board member to attend AROHE's biennial conference. Currently, UMRA Board member Cherie Hamilton is also an AROHE Board member, and must attend AROHE's annual Board retreat. AROHE paid for the 2017 retreat, and UMRA will pay for the 2018 retreat. Currently, there is no plan in place to address this specific situation, and D. Peterson recommended that we have a plan for the future. Dave Nauman reminded us that the Board has already authorized the Executive Committee to make such decisions.

9. **End of Year Awards (Donna Peterson)**

D. Peterson announced that the Executive Committee has re-established the practice of giving service awards. More information will follow.

10. **Benefits Committee Report (Dale Swanson)**

Swanson indicated that most of the retirees who continue to stay in the University's plans are enrolled in Medica, U of M plan, and Health Partners +65. While enrolled members can move *between* these University plans, **ONCE THEY LEAVE THESE PLANS, THEY CAN'T COME BACK - EVER.**

There was some discussion about whether or not UMRA should take a position on the advantages or disadvantages of staying on a University-sponsored plan. Several members commented that the University does not make decisions on employee decisions - ever. To help UMRA members have more information about healthcare choices, three suggestions were

presented:

- repeat the Fall 2016 Benefits Workshop
- possible video training - Jerry Rinehart will check on this
- create a system for for sharing personal stories (Jean Markell)

11. **Web Page Update (Dave Nauman)**

Naumann reported that the 2 existing problems have been corrected, and that Web Co-Master Cathy Lee Gierke is returning.

12. **CARES Committee (Earl Nolting)**

Nolting reported that since the passing of Bob Kane, Supervisor of the Center on Aging, the Care Guides have been put on hold. Nolting posed two questions to the Board:

- What can we do to promote healthy living amongst our members?
- Are there any Board members with ideas? If so, please contact Earl.

13. **Campus Club (Kathy O'Brien)**

Membership - O'Brien announced that there is a Membership Drive this Spring, and encouraged current members to consider bringing potential members to lunch at the Campus Club.

Dues - UMRA has organizational membership through O'Brien's individual membership, for which she is billed \$96/year, in contrast to UMRA having it's own membership for approximately \$350/year. There was discussion regarding whether or not UMRA should pay the \$96/year.

It was also decided that the Operating Manual should include the details of UMRA's membership with, and dues to, the Campus Club.

14. **Program Committee (Chip Peterson)**

C. Peterson reported that there is no change in programming since the last report.

15. **Membership Committee (John Anderson/Virgil Larson)**

Anderson reported that he just received more names last night, and noted that the new addresses include department addresses, and most e-mail addresses **but not residential street addresses**. OHR has requested retirement brochures from him, but a very small amount compared to the total number of retirees."

16. **URVC (John Anderson)**

Anderson reported that URVC is in the midst of arranging a contract that allows them to manage volunteers more efficiently.

17. **Communications/Newsletter (Ginny Hanson & Julie Medbery)**

Hanson announced that the deadline for the May newsletter is April 22, 2017. She will need pictures and bios of the Board nominees - bios to be 100 words or less. Regarding the May luncheon, C. Peterson reminded her to include information about parking, reservation deadlines, and menu selection.

18. **Research Grants (Jan Hogan & Richard Poppele)**

Hogan reported that 14 grants were funded, and commented that all 21 applicants would have been funded, if there had been enough money. While the Grants program has received \$45,000 for two years, the amount allotted for the third year is not guaranteed to be the same. It

will be important to continue to make the case for funding this program beyond the initial three years of funding.

19. **Social Committee (Kay Thomas & Cherie Hamilton)**

Evaluation of the newly organized Coffee Hour should take place after we have had more sessions. Also, there has been discussion previously regarding the creation and distribution of an interest survey to be used by the Social Committee as a tool for planning social events. Today, the general consensus was to build upon the events that are already available to us, rather than to create new ones. The Committee will not proceed with the questionnaire.

20. **History/Archive Committee (Gloria Williams)**

All committee reports are due at the end of the year - **HARD COPY ONLY!**

21. **Luncheon Committee (Ben Zimmerman)**

The menu of the May luncheon is taken from the Campus Club's banquet menu, therefore it costs more - \$30. In the past, the Board has made a conscious decision to subsidize this overage, so that members are not charged the full menu price. O'Brien motioned to continue purchasing the banquet lunch at \$30 and subsidizing the overage. The motion to continue purchasing the banquet lunch at \$30 and subsidizing the overage was seconded by Adams, and carried.

22. **Representative to (and member of) Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans (Jerry Rinehart)**

Rinehart reported from the Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Plans. Securian ranks in the top 2-3 top companies offering their type of retirement financial services. The assets to liabilities ratio is 500% in all area allowing the company to perform well in "stress tests." He distributed a spreadsheet listing the Securian performance reports in various U of M plans.

23. **Representative to UM Alumni Association (Jean Markell)**

Markell spoke about options to get UMRA members more involved in legislative advocacy. There was a sentiment to act within structures that are already in place, versus creating our own events and activities. It was suggested that we could put a section on our web site that would inform members about how to participate in events and/or how to contact their own legislators and congresspersons. D. Peterson suggested that she might hold a meet and greet event for local policy makers.

24. **Representative to the P&A Senate (Kay Thomas)**

Thomas said that the group had been dealing with a sexual misconduct policy. We may publish the final policy on our web site.

- She also talked about social activities. We decided not to conduct a survey about interests in various travel and social activities just now. It was suggested that she and Cheri look for other events that UMRA members might connect with rather than create our own.

25. **Civil Service Senate Representative (Nancy Fulton)**

No report was given.

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Goldsmith May and Jean Kinsey